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HISTORY  
OF THE  
TEN YEARS' WORK  
OF THE  
PHILLIPS, LEE AND MONROE COUNTY  
DISTRICT BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.  
—  
1890.



Class \_\_\_\_\_

Book \_\_\_\_\_

THE BEQUEST OF  
DANIEL MURRAY  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
1925











# History, Anniversary Celebration

AND

## Financial Report

OF THE WORK OF THE

PHILLIPS, LEE AND MONROE COUNTY MISSIONARY BAPTIST

District Association,

*From Its Organization, November 10th, 1879, to November 9th, 1889.*

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—Written and Arranged by—

REV. W. A. HOLMES,  
Serving His Sixth Year as District Secretary.

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HELENA, ARK:  
HELENA WORLD JOB PRINT,  
1890.

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To the Glorious Father, as the Covenant  
GOD of Israel;

To the Gracious Son, the Redeemer of His  
People;

To the Holy Ghost, the Author of Sancti-  
fication, be All the Honor and Praise.

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This little Pamphlet—a short, brief history of the ten years work of the Phillips, Lee and Monroe County Baptist District Association, though humble in its make-up, is nevertheless very affectionately dedicated to the two who, among others, have ever been foremost in the work:

REV. CHARLES WILLIAMS, First Moderator,

REV. E. C. MORRIS, First Secretary.

The bequest of  
Daniel Murray,  
Washington, D. C.  
1925.

## PREFACE.

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In presenting this little History to my brothers and sisters of like faith and belief, I am not unmindful of my inability to do justice in recording your acts and in writing of the great principle and cause for which you have labored so long. Neither is it my purpose to worry you with an array of endless words, but simply to give the plain facts as they occurred during the last ten years, without hiding our faults.

This book is simply a telescope through which we may look back and see dates, read of the places, and review the accounts and other common occurrences as they transpired in the darkness of 1879 on and up to November, 1889.

Many of the plan-layers and builders in our Association's work to raise higher the Banner of Christ, have fallen asleep in our march and struggles over the mountains of sin and confusion, and many of the Lord's friends who are to-day watching every change in the storm and calm of our District work, for fear of a wreck, may not be here to witness the Twentieth Anniversary and the state of our churches and people in 1899. Though whatever more may be accomplished to reclaim the people for GOD by others in time to come, than by we in the past, yet, dear brothers, when they read this book they will know that you have been here and layed the foundation and gone. May the secretaries keep the papers and records, and write a better and larger one than this the next time. We send this humble summary as a messenger to accomplish a work for us, which we have

been unable to do, and we hope that it will prove a blessing and be a constant reference book in all our meeting and for internal and external church work.

That it will find a warm place in the hearts of my brothers, to this I have not the least doubt.

We thank the brethren one and all, for the aid and respect shown us in the little work, which we have (though poorly) done as Secretary and Missionary.

And whatever errors you may find in this book, please charge it to my head and not to my heart, (for I mean right if I don't know how to do so.)

And when any of our learned critics shall be passing their judgment on this effort, I hope that they will be manly enough to consider the fact, that I have never gone to a school of any kind in my life, and have never received a lesson of any kind from any person, and whether they can do half as well under similar circumstances.

HELENA, ARK., June 12, 1890.

## From the Secretary.

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HELENA, ARK., March 24, 1890.

*To the Elders and Brothers, and Churches Composing the Phillips,  
Lee and Monroe County District Association :*

Dear Brothers—GREETING :—

Our Lord said the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of Light, (Luke, 16, 8,) or in other words, that worldly men in the transaction of their business, exercise more prudence and foresight in temporal matters than the people of GOD do in their spiritual work. Therefore, want of thought and prudence on the part of our leading brothers, churches and associations seems to have been the greatest hindrance in the past to our work. It is said that in union there is strength, this is true, but at the same time there can be no union without first having a knowledge of the good results to be accomplished by a systemized plan of operations for the furtherance of the work of an association. The work we put up with our hands, we often kick down with our feet, and this not because of the want of love in the Master's work, but the lack of understanding in the management of the work assigned to our hands as ministers. The good enactments at our District meeting often fail for the want of prudence, care, and regularity on the part of our District officers and brothers. Several years of experience has taught us that if we, as servants for the people, and laborers in the Master's cause, would be more careful in

making reports at stated times to our churches of all the means placed in our hands for the work, then a spirit of confidence in the integrity and ability of the leaders would grow in the hearts of our people and churches, and thus they would learn to give more freely for the support of the work to which they have elected us. We had almost lost sight of the early work of our association. Therefore, in order to refresh the memory of our brothers on their past labors, also to kindle a lively spirit among our churches, and as a guide for all whom it may concern in the future, we therefore present to you the report of the Tenth Anniversary, and a financial and numerical report of all other work of our District for the ten years ending November 9, 1889.

Respectfully yours,

W. A. HOLMES, *District Secretary.*

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## TRIBUTE OF RESPECT TO OUR SISTERS.

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HELENA, ARK., May 19, 1890.

*To the Ladies and Sisters of all Baptist Churches of the Phillips, Lee and Monroe County District Association: This Comes to Greet You—*

Before closing this little book, the last, but not least, I take this method of returning many thanks to you for the much kindness, respect and tender care taken in my behalf, and shown me by you, during my many years of travel and labor in and throughout our district.

As Secretary, Missionary and Superintendent, I give the praise to GOD for health and devotion to the work, and we bless His holy name for placing all along the road of my journeys, the



tender-hearted women who have been ever ready to strew bread and water before us, to sustain me with strength, while walking and traveling, to carry as best we could the gospel of His son. And while asking each of you to accept my humble thanks for your hospitality and christian benevolence, I at the same time beg you for a continuance of your prayers to the master, that I may have success in preaching the gospel to the poor and needy.

You may in a forgetful way, greatly under-rate the value of the service you did for Christ and the churches of this District, in giving me refreshments to eat and a couch upon which to rest. Believe me, sisters, and to you be the credit, for the great progress made in our associational work during the last three years, could and would not have been accomplished without your help. For while I did the preaching and lecturing, you have fed me by the way. I can not think of all your names, but I still remember your kindness, and when you read this letter, think of the day and time I was at your house, only resting a little to be sent away with more vigor to my field of labor.

Among the aged sisters whose names I can remember and whose counsel and advice has served as a shelter from the rain, and a bridge across the miry swamps of vexation in my travels are as follows:

PHILLIPS COUNTY.

Sister Elizer Prince, of Macedonia Church.

Francis Hair, of Old Mount Olive Church.

Ellen Hunter, of First St. Paul Church.

LEE COUNTY.

Mary McKinzie, of Antioch Church.

Mollie Green, of St. John Church.

Flora McGee, of Paradise Church, Marianna.

MONROE COUNTY.

Susan Oates, of Bethlehem Church.

Adaline Jackson, of Bethlehem Church.

Caroline Evens, of St. Luke Church.

To these and many others of our sisters all over this District, I owe a debt of gratitude for their lady-like, Christian courtesies, for which I have no words to express myself.

May each of you live long and  
Be blessed in your old age and may  
Your example be a sufficient  
Lamp in the pathway through the  
Lives of our younger women,  
Who will come up to fill your places  
When you shall have been called away  
From labor to reward.

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## “WHAT HAST THOU DONE?”

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“The harvest is plenteous,  
But the laborers are few.”

What has been the conduct of the churches in our District, and how many have reached the height of spiritual usefulness in the King's Highway for good, during these ten years? This is for you to answer. What will be the condition of our churches and District Association at the expiration of the next ten years?

We answer, they will be just what the preachers are, for the leaders can make no more of the church and people than what they are themselves. They are the index of their flocks.

Show us the manner of the man's life, his standing among the people of his community, his Christian piety and ability, and we shall not ask to know any more about his church and people.

In making something of our churches during the next ten

years, we, by the help of GOD, shall make more of our people, for our churches in the next anniversary celebration will be what the people are.

Thy shoes shall be iron and brass;  
And as thy days, so shall thy strength be.

—Deut, 33-25.

The Apostle Paul, just before his visit to Macedonia, wrote to his son Timothy, requesting him to remain at Ephesus. And, he among other things refers to the character and qualifications of Bishops and Deacons, and after describing the class of brothers who were to fill the two orders as servants in the house of GOD, which said he, is the church of the living GOD, the pillar and ground of the truth. He conveyed the idea in one word, which was to determine the usefulness of the church, the conduct of the preachers and deacons.

#### GOOD OR BAD BEHAVIOUR.

The purpose of the church of GOD is sometimes overlooked, and its power for making peace between GOD and man and between man and man is often under-rated, for he said, whosoever on shalt bind on earth, shall be bound in heaven, and whosoever thou shalt loose on earth, shall be lost in heaven. The wickedness of man is to-day and has ever been great in the earth, the imagination of the thoughts of his heart are evil continually, there is none good, not one. Such was the character of the whole Antediluvian World, with the exception of a single family, and unless human nature is changed, surely brothers, from what we see in this land, such is the character, with the exception of those who are renewed by grace of the whole modern world. But human nature is not changed, they are all running greedily after Baal, there is none that seeketh after GOD, there is none that doeth good; no, not one. Say unto them:

“Turn unto your GOD, repent, and be baptized, for Jesus is

the only way, we have need then to praise our GOD for his love, that in his providence he gave us his only begotten son to redeem us from under the curse of that law which is continually accusing us of sin before God, for the law saith, that the soul that sinneth, it shall die.

And we ought to praise his son our Lord Jesus Christ, for the planting of his church, in the midst of this dark and sinful world, that the light of his righteousness might shine forth and that the word of his truth might cause men to repent and return again unto the tree of life, and accept the salvation of his dear son, through the preaching of the gospel.

This gospel of salvation, brethren, is to be fostered among men by the church. Therefore, it is expedient that the true purpose of the house of GOD, should be taught, and especially to those who are intrusted with the saving of souls and in whose hands as leaders, (preachers) rest the destiny of the churches, the interruption of which involves the happiness of the human family.

It is evident that the purpose of our Saviour, in establishing his church in the world, was that they should be monuments of righteousness in the midst of sinful men, to bear a perpetual witness against their gross wickedness in the world. Again, that they should be living testimonies to the work of redemption and the light of the world, and that from the light of truth in the house of GOD, which is the church of the living God, man might find his way back from the darkness of sin to the light of christianity. Thus the church is shown to be a kingdom within itself and subject to Christ only for its conduct; his word is the only law, and our duty is to do his service, because the church is under law to Christ.

Now then brothers, how shall we as ministers for Christ, im-

prove our churches and our people? We answer, first live a Godly life of righteousness and be an example of dignity before all men, study night and day for improvement in all branches of our work. Fight the good fight of faith, for you know that the people are sometimes destroyed for the lack of knowledge and integrity in their teachers.

So a man live,  
So he shall die.

Jesus said, as my father has sent me, even so send I you and he said again, teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. This would imply that the gospel of peace is to be preached, a gospel whose seed is love, to be planted in the hearts of men, (not that kind of so called gospel, which is so commonly preached in many of our churches, and which often times tear down more than is built up.) And to do this well brothers, we need a higher and a more conscious knowledge of our faults of duty.

Have a free mind. I call that mind free which is jealous of its own freedom, which guards itself from being merged in other things of this world, which guards its empire over itself as nobler than the empire of the world; in fine, I call that mind free, which conscious of its affinity with God, and confiding in his promises by Jesus Christ, devotes itself faithfully to the unfolding of all its powers, which passes the bounds of time and death, which hopes to advance forever, and which finds inexhaustible power, both for action and suffering in the prospect of immortality.

The history of the colored Baptists in this portion of the State may be traced back to an early date, and when we use the term "Baptist," we mean to say that years before the last civil war, whatever number of Baptists there were in this section (now Phillips, Lee and Monroe County) both colored and white persons were generally members of the same church. This contin-



ued until 1861-62, when the services in many of the churches were discontinued, and for a while the colored Baptist members continued to occupy some of the old churches left vacant, and oftentimes for convenience they would worship and praise the great God of their fathers in old out-houses on the plantations. Their only leaders in those days, (with one or two exceptions) were such of the old colored brethren, who had been authorized to conduct prayer meetings and to exhort each other.

There was at that time no regular organized churches, that is exclusively of colored members in this section, a goodly number of brothers and sisters residing in and around Helena, and who had been previously baptised before the war, continued to assemble and serve their Lord and Master as best they could. In 1862 and '63, the little flock in Helena began to grow stronger, and in April, 1863, while the Forty-Sixth Regiment was being made up of men from the surrounding country, this brought to Helena a large number of refugees, and in this number was Brothers A. Williamson and Caleb Jackson, who became the leaders (in God's work) among the Christians, they took turn-about and did the preaching, although neither one or the other was ordained, and there was some little jealousy at that time as to who should be the pastor; and in the early part of 1863, the little flock of about 108 styled themselves a Baptist church, and in the latter part of 1864, or the spring of '65, the two above named brothers were sent as delegates by the members to St. Louis, Mo., with a request, asking the Consolidated American Baptist Convention to send them a missionary or an elder for their church.

The first regularly organized colored Baptist church in this part of the State was the Second Baptist church of Helena, in August, 1865, and from this one during the next three years the

Blackfoot, Phillips Bayou and Mount Pleasant churches were organized.

Rev. J. T. White is the oldest ordained elder in this country, and the first to lead out in the cause of Christ, after the shackles of slavery had been torn from his brothers. He was born in New Providence, Mark County, Indiana, in Aug. 25. 1838, he was converted and baptised in 1857; his church saw that he was a suitable one for the work and licensed him to preach in 1858. In this capacity he was not slow, and when more laborers were wanted for the Masters vineyard, he was called and ordained to the work of the gospel ministry in 1862. This brother accepted a position as missionary to labor in the South among the people of his race, from the Consolidated American Baptist Convention, and came to Arkansas in 1865. He effected a permanent organization of the Second Baptist church, and was elected its pastor in the same year (1865). He was the founder with the aid of Elder Henry Peters, who had been ordained in that same year and together with Brothers Israel, Burell, and others, in the organization of the First Missionary Baptist Association, at the Second Baptist church in 1867, and he was its first moderator. This association continued to grow and spread, and did great good in its work for many years. Its first session after organization was with the Blackfoot Baptist Church, at the commencement there were only eight churches; during the next six years there was an average of seven churches organized each year and an equal number of ordinations of preachers. The Old Mother Association, as it is sometimes called, only lived fourteen years, its last session was with St. John Baptist Church at Indian Bay, in Monroe County, in Aug. 11 to 14, 1881. During its existence however, it seems to have labored for and encouraged all the work common among the Baptists of to-day. Those in charge of the institution when it went down were:

Rev. Tony Grissom, Moderator; Rev. Moses Proffitt, Vice-Moderator; Rev. B. Clark, Recording Secretary; Rev. C. Bently, Corresponding Secretary; Rev. Henry Pruitt, Treasurer. The monies collected in 1880, was \$68.60. The extent of its growth and usefulness may be learned from the following reports made at its last session in '81:

The Committee on Finance made the following report:

DEAR BRETHREN OF THIS ASSOCIATION:—

Your Committee on Finance beg leave to report—

*First*—That the Moderator, Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Treasurer of this Association be appointed a committee to arrange the Minutes of this Association and to superintend the same.

*Second*—That this Association have published the Articles of Faith and Church Covenant in the Minutes of this Association.

*Third*—That the Clerk be responsible for the delivery of the Minutes to the different churches, according to the amount of money contributed by each church, and that the Clerk be allowed \$1.50 to have the Minutes posted and sent to the different churches.

The receipts and expenditures we find as follows:

Received from churches and schools...	\$34 60
“ “ general collections, . . .	20 40
Balance on hand from last Association, 11 60—	\$66. 60
Paid for stationery and postage, . . . . .	\$ 2 50
Donated to Moderator, . . . . .	3 65
“ “ Recording Secretary, . . . . .	10 00
Printing and superintending Minutes, . . .	36 00
For Sexton, . . . . .	2 45
Donated to the Bap't State Convention, . .	5 00—\$59 60

Balance on hand, . . . . . \$ 7 00

The Missionary appointed in 1880 made his report—

Miles traveled, . . . . .	250
Churches visited, . . . . .	37
Sermons and Lectures, . . . . .	75
Sunday Schools organized, . . . . .	5
Churches organized, . . . . .	3
Preachers ordained, . . . . .	3
Deacons ordained, . . . . .	21
Prayer meetings attended, . . . . .	15



Monies collected on the field,.....\$52 25

THEIR NUMBERS.

Churches,.....	40
Hold membership, ...	3 846
Addition by baptisms last year, ..	132

Though not withstanding the above reports which speaks well for that body, yet there was some dissension among them, so much so that Revs. Tony Grissom, Henry Peters, and a few others, met in 1878 and organized what was then known as the Mount Pleasant Association. This was one in the Mt. Pleasant Church, near Lagrange. This dissension seems to have been a personal matter between Brother Grissom and one or two others. The new Mount Pleasant Association, however, was very weak, it only had three churches, it was born and died, and was buried all in the same year, and its remains were forced back into its mother or the First District Association in the next year. And there were several churches in these parts, which had never gone into the First District Association, and others which were once in had come out from her, being dissatisfied with the way and manner of things done. At one time the dissension among the brethren ran high, and it was in the year 1875, that a few members (11) in all came out from the Second Baptist (or mother) church in Helena, and an unpleasantness ensued which lasted for some time.

Finally however, the Centennial Baptist Church was organized in 1876. This Centennial Church may justly be called the mother of the Phillips, Lee and Monroe District Association, from the fact that those brethren who stood by and helped her in the struggle and favored the organizing of this church, were the ones who called a conference which met in Helena in July, 1879, to discuss the religious status of the Baptists in the District. There were seven churches represented by the following elders:

Rev. Charles Williams,

“ Alex. Berry,

“ E. C. Morris,

“ B. Brown.

“ O. D. Taylor,

“ Gabriel Richardson,

“ A. H. Miller,

“ E. D. Sams,

“ John W. Martin.

After a free discussion of the subject, it was resolved that the organization of a new association was imperatively demanded of them, and by unanimous consent, the Phillips, Lee and Monroe County District Association, which now after ten years, numbers seventy-two churches with a membership of 8,682, was then and there organized and founded by the above named brethren, and Rev. E. C. Morris was appointed a committee to draft a constitution to be presented at the first regular session to be held in the Pilgrim Baptist Church, on November 9, 1879.

At the meeting in November a thorough organization was perfected, seventeen churches were represented and \$27.20 collected.

The following Constitution was adopted by the Association, at the Pilgrim Baptist Church, near Lagrange, in Lee County on November 10th, 1879:

CONSTITUTION OF THE PHILLIPS, LEE, MONROE AND PRAIRIE COUNTY  
MISSIONARY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

ARTICLE 1. This Association shall be known as the Phillips, Lee, Monroe, and Prairie County Missionary Baptist District Association of Eastern Arkansas.

ART. 2. The object of this association shall be to promulgate the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, to advance his kingdom by supplying destitute regions within its reach, with the gospel through the agencies of Missionaries employed and sup-

ported by this association, and to establish churches and promote education among the young ministers.

ART. 3. This Association shall be composed of members from regular Missionary Baptist churches who are in good standing.

ART. 4. Each church shall send one delegate for every fifty members and one for every fraction over fifty.

ART. 5. Delegates shall bring letters from their respective churches, showing the number of members received by baptism, by letter or otherwise; the number dismissed in order, the number deceased, the number excluded, and the present number in good standing.

ART. 6. The letters are to be received immediately after organization at the opening of each annual meeting of the Association. After these letters have been received, the names of the delegates shall be enroiled.

ART. 7. This Association shall have a Moderator, (one) Assistant Moderator, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer who shall be chosen by the suffrage of the members present.

ART. 8. It shall be the duty of the Moderator to preside over the meetings of the Association, and preserve strict order. He shall appoint all committees unless otherwise directed.

In the absence of the Moderator, the Assistant Moderator may act in his stead.

It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to keep a true record of the proceedings of the Association, and such documents as may be committed to him.

The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct all the correspondence of the Association, and report annually to the same.

It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to take charge of all the funds of the Association, and make a report of them at each annual session, and to the Executive Board as often as required. His books shall be open at all times for inspection by the Board.

No money shall be paid out of the Treasury but by an order from the Executive Board, and the order must be signed by the Moderator and Secretary of the Board.

ART. 9. The Association at each annual meeting shall elect an Executive Board of not less than seven members, five of whom shall form a quorum for the transaction of business. Said Board shall be selected entirely from this body, and shall have all the

power of the Association during its recess.

It shall hold its meetings quarterly at a place designated by the Association.

The Chairman of the Board may call a meeting of the Board whenever the interest of the Association requires it.

ART. 10 New churches may be received into this Association who shall petition by letter or delegates, and who shall on examination be found orthodox, and the Moderator shall manifest their admission by giving the delegates the right hand of fellowship.

ART. 11. This Association shall in all cases be governed by a vote of a majority of the members present, except in the admission of delegates and individual members, which shall be by a two-thirds vote.

ART. 12. This Constitution may be amended at any annual meeting, two-thirds of the members concurring therein.

## CHAPTER I.

### THE TEN ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION WITH DATES, PLACES AND RESOLUTIONS.

**D**URING the first four years work of the Association or from Nov. 1879, to July 1883, but little real progress was made other than meeting each year and collecting the annual contributions, which did not in any one year exceed \$50.00; gather up a few statistics, appoint a missionary, appropriate money for the State Convention, and recommend one of our young preachers, with some aid, to the Roger Williams University at Nashville, Tenn.

The great hindrance to the work all this while, was caused by the dissension among the brothers, both in the State and District work. But by the blessings of GOD and the untiring efforts of the brothers, with the leadership of Rev's. Charles Williams as Moderator and E. C. Morris as Secretary, the work was kept alive.

In 1882 the Association convened with the Buck Spring Baptist church, at Clarendon, Monroe County, and the number of churches reported was twenty-nine. the collection from all sources was \$35.08, up to this date they had given for education \$110.00.

The fourth annual session was with St. Paul church, at Bushville, Phillips County, on August 2, 3 and 4, 1883. It was at this place that the dark clouds of confusion began to give

away, the churches reporting were fifty-three, the collections \$84.35, and here the first call for the organization of a District Sabbath School Convention, to meet with the Centennial Church of Helena, on Monday, October 8th, was made, and the *Arkansas Times* was adopted as the official organ of the Association, also the boundary line of the District was extended so as to include St. Francis and Desha Counties.

At the fifth session at Walnut Grove Church, Lee County, on July 31, and August 1 and 2, 1884, the same spirit of progress was witnessed. The attendance was larger by four churches, and the finance greater by \$67.40 than on the previous year, and the adding of Prairie County gave us six counties in our field of work. 2,000 copies of an appeal to all the Baptist churches and Sabbath Schools in the District, to prevent excursions and other disorderly gatherings on the Sabbath, were signed by the members of the Association, printed and distributed, and at this meeting there came about some dissatisfaction over the appropriation of \$75.00, to represent the District in the State Convention, and the following is a copy of the original resolution from the adoption of which sprang the bitterness which seems to have existed between certain brothers in the District, and which cannot be said to have been settled until July, 1889. But we are glad to say that the author of this paper acknowledged at the board meeting in Marvell, April 29, 1889, that this resolution was the cause of much trouble in our midst:

WHEREAS, There are some of the churches in our District who are unable to go to the State Convention, and

WHEREAS, The Association has exacted the amount of three dollars from each church, and

WHEREAS, Provisions have been made by the State Convention, that Districts may be represented by their Associations; Therefore be it

*Resolved*, That this Association appropriate \$75.00 to rep-



resent each church in this District who have paid into the Association the amount of three dollars.

*Resolved further*, That the Association appoint twenty-one delegates to represent them in the State Convention.

Respectfully,

E. C. MORRIS.

And at Indian Bay, in Monroe County, the Sixth Anniversary was held with St. John Baptist Church, in July, 1885. It was the largest gathering up to that year. About \$225 was collected, and a general good feeling seemed to prevail among our brethren, and it was during this session that a sister was elected recording secretary.

A motion prevailed to set aside fifty cents for each church represented in the meeting. That year there being sixty-eight enrolled, and this amount which represented \$34.00 was ordered given to the *Arkansas Times*, then being published in Helena, and that three copies of the paper with the proceedings of the Association printed therein would be sent to each church in the District for three months. But the failure on the part of the officers of that Associational year, say from July, 1885, to July, 1886, in not having the proceedings printed and given to the churches and the negligence of the Executive Board, for they held no meetings during that year, and this brought about a halt in the work. It was the dullest and coldest year in the history of the Association, and the result was that when we looked around, we found that we had lost twenty churches or 2,280 members and the District revenue \$63.00 short.

With Spring Lake Baptist church, in July 1886, the attendance was small, only forty-eight churches reported, the receipts were \$123.78. Though some good work was done, among other things was the resolution to classify the monies into separate funds as follows:

*Resolved*, That each church in this District shall send annu-

ally to the Association the sum of \$3.00, and it shall be divided into five regular funds, as follows :

For District Minutes.....	75 cents
For District Missions.....	75 "
For Arkansas Baptist College.....	75 "
For Associational Work.....	50 "
For African Missions.....	25 "

The taking of three (3) shares of stock in the Arkansas Baptist College, and the appointment of two brothers to represent the Association in the stockholder's meeting, our losses of the previous year were regained during the Fall of 1886 and the Spring of 1887, by the blessings of GOD on the labors of the Missionary and officers, and, yet we are not unmindful of the fact that the blunder of 1885, was the cause of the withdrawal of those six churches in Monroe County, now known as the Bethlehem Association; and the ten churches of northeast Lee County, now organized and known as the Council Bend and St. Francis River Association, the number of Baptists in the District before this dissension was 7,108.

The new era of hope, or the dawn of a better day for the churches showed itself at the eighth annual session. This was at Antioch Baptist church in Lee County, on July 28, 1887, though not without its cloud of confusion, which seems to have been blown over from the tempest of 1884. The little army of brothers came together in large numbers, the number of churches was sixty-three, a gain of fifteen over the previous year; and the collections \$186.25, a net gain of \$62.47 over the receipts of 1886, and after paying out \$130.10 this, for the first time since its organization, left \$56.15 in the treasury. And notwithstanding the great satisfaction given to the Association, by the annual reports of the Secretary, Treasurer, Missionary and Executive Board, the wind blew quite heavy for awhile over the following resolutions,



to authorize the conducting of a District Ministers and Deacon's Institute:

*Resolved*, That we do hereby organize and establish for the benefit of our elders, preachers, deacons and Sabbath School teachers, and for others friendly to the cause of religion and advancement, a regular Annual Institute.

#### ARTICLE I.

The regular sessions of the District Institute shall convene on the first of January in each year, and shall be conducted three (3) months, January, February and March, and may continue longer if in the judgment of the Board of Directors the actual number of scholars in attendance and the finance on hand will admit.

#### ARTICLE II.

The following named Brothers shall constitute the Board of Directors: Revs. Henry Pruitt, P. B. Brown, W. A. Holmes, L. Robinson, Wm. Goldsbery, H. C. Pettis, S. Easley, Deacons Nat Edwards and W. K. James. And in case of a vacancy either by death, resignation or otherwise in the board, the directors shall have power to fill said place by election. But in all cases one shall be elected from the county in which said vacancy occurred.

#### ARTICLE III.

The directors shall have power to make all arrangements for the successful management of the Institute, to raise monies, hire and pay a good and competent instructor.

#### ARTICLE IV.

Until otherwise ordered by the Association, or in case some unforeseen circumstance shall compel the directors to change the place, the institute shall be conducted in Mt. Perrin Baptist Church at LaGrange, Lee County, Ark.

#### ARTICLE V.

The directors shall present annually a written report to the association of the general working of the Institute, of the amount of all monies raised, and of the expenditures for all purposes, the

number of elders, preachers, deacons and Sabbath School teachers from each county.

The above resolutions were adopted and the Directors sent circulars notifying the churches of the same in October, 1887, and about December of the same year had 500 announcements in pamphlet form printed, which contained information of the course of study, with the name of books for the morning and evening sessions; of music, tuition, maps, board, location, miscellaneous and an appeal to the sisters of Baptist churches. During the fall months and from those who attended the Institute, and from its friends the board collected \$58.75, and paid out for printing, mailing, freight, wood, repair on church, and teachers, \$58.72. The Institute was conducted eight weeks, commencing January 2, 1888, its total expenses were \$74.97, and \$16.25 due to the teacher is still unpaid. The Institute received from the A. B. P. Society, fifty reference bibles, 2,776 tracts and six other books, all valued at \$46.81, and there were enrolled thirty-four scholars in all, thirty-three males and one female, and with thirty-seven visitors during the session.

The Ninth Annual Session at Bethlehem Baptist Church, in Monroe County, July 26, 1888. Although a minute record of its proceedings is not written here, yet those of our brethren who attended that memorable meeting, when they read this, will think of the scenes of that meeting which gave pleasure to some and pain to others, and this brought about hard words, which for a time seemed as though the District would divide in the heated contest over the election of a Recording Secretary. Happily however, the whole matter was settled through the timely advice of Rev. Charles Williams, who compelled the two leaders Revs. E. C. Morris and W. A. Holmes, to clasp hands, and thus we had peace, for the lion and the lamb had lain down together.

The officer's report of the work during the year showed great

progress, and this from that day created a new zeal throughout the District. The churches reporting were sixty-seven, and the annual revenue was \$171.30, and among other things the two following resolutions were adopted :

*Resolved*, That the reports of all annual officers of this association shall be made immediately after the report of the Committee on Credential, and before the election of officers.

The following resolution to qualify annual members for any service in the Association was offered by Rev. D. D. Keigler, and on motion unanimously adopted: Be it

*Resolved*, First, that any member of a regular Baptist church and in good standing may join this Association as an annual member upon the payment of fifty cents (50c.) Second, said persons shall present themselves with the above amount to the Committee on Credentials, and said committee shall report the names and amount received from all annual members to the Association at the same time and manner as other members. Third, annual members shall be eligible to any office or duty in the Association.

The Tenth Annual Session was held with the Rendrick Grove Baptist Church, at Lexa, Phillips County, on July 25, 1889, and this may very rightly be called the Golden Epoch of the Association. This meeting is the one long to be remembered, it was the largest ever held during the ten years steady march of the Association, and more than 118 delegates were in attendance. It was peaceful and pleasant in all its work, and not a word was spoken to mar the feelings of anyone. Seventy-two churches reported with a membership of 8,692; the annual collection was \$294.90, or a gain of \$123.60 over the year before. Nine of the number of churches as stated above were those who for 10 years had refused to connect themselves with the work of our Association, and many of the old brothers who had stayed out for many years presented themselves and were received with much gladness; and again, the reports of the officers showed a still

greater progress. The brothers were satisfied and seemed more enthusiastic than ever, so much so that

H. C. Pettis was called to serve his third term as Moderator.

C. F. Fencher was called to serve his third term as vice-Moderator.

W. A. Holmes was called to serve his sixth term as Recording Secretary.

William Goldsberry was called to serve his fourth term as Treasurer.

During the past 12 months we raised \$57.50 for African missions; \$99 for the Arkansas Baptist College, and \$20 for the State Convention. And there was collected from all sources that year by the Executive Board, District Missionary and the Association, \$437. The following are among the resolutions adopted:

BY DEACON H. GREEN.

*Resolved*, That, in order for the Executive Board to raise a sufficient amount with which to do missionary work this year, the pastors and deacons of each church in the District are requested to raise the amount of \$3; and this money must be sent to the Board by the missionary, or it may be sent to the Rev. Wm. Goldsberry, treasurer, at Hyde Park, Phillips county, Ark., and after this money is sent in, then the District Missionary shall not be allowed to collect any money at his annual visit to the churches for his work.

The report of the Committee on Temperance was, on motion, received and adopted as follows:

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of this Association that dram drinking of any description is in violation of the command of God, and any minister of this Association known to be guilty of drunkenness shall be expelled, and any Church who shall knowingly retain as her pastor any one who is known to get drunk, either in public or in private, shall be excluded from membership in this Association. And all pastors and churches are respectfully requested to preach special sermons against the use of intoxicating drinks.

The following preamble and Resolution by Rev. R. E. Bryant was, on motion, adopted :

WHEREAS, It being essential for future reference that all matters of business be recorded ; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it shall be the duty of each officer of this Association to present a written report at each annual meeting.

And that any failure or neglect upon the part of any officer or missionary to comply with this rule shall disqualify the same to hold office.

#### COMMITTEE'S REPORT.

1. *Resolved*, That this Association shall appoint one General Missionary.

2. That it shall be the duty of said Missionary to visit every church in the District, and to organize and build up in destitute places.

3. That he shall be entitled to a collection from each church wherever he may preach or lecture.

4. That he shall give a receipt for all monies received, and shall turn the same over to the Board quarterly.

5. That the Board, upon a favorable report, shall pay the said Missionary the sum of \$15 per month.

The following Resolution by Rev. E. C. Morris was read and adopted :

*Resolved*, That the District Missionary shall take correct statistics of all the Churches and Sunday Schools, and to take subscribers for the *Vanguard* and solicit subscribers for the Baptist College ; and that the Board have power to remove for any unfaithfulness.

Resolution by Rev. Thomas M. Wright was, on motion, adopted :

*Resolved*, That any church or pastor belonging to this Association, who shall allow dancing or flying horses on their Church grounds, or who shall give or take any part in Sunday excursions, shall be excluded from membership in this Association.



## CHAPTER II.

### THE CHURCHES AND ASSOCIATIONAL FINANCE—CHURCHES.

THE number of churches in our District Association in 1879, was seventeen, and in nine years we have gained fifty-eight or a fraction over six churches in each year. The number of churches belonging to our Association to-day is seventy-seven. in the three Counties, Phillips, Lee and Monroe, there are 109 Baptist Churches. But thirty-two of these churches are not connected with our work, out of the number of churches in our Association. It seems from the reports that thirty-six of them own their grounds. But as District Secretary, we have made a careful investigation of the matter and find that not more than twenty-nine churches have deeds that are worth the paper they are written on. Thus you can see we have forty-eight churches that sits on other people's land, and twenty-three out of our number of churches are sometimes called lodge rooms, from the fact that the people of God, and the people of the world build together. And so from the great disturbance arising between these two elements in the last nine years fourteen churches have been burned to ashes. Thirty-three of our churches are in Phillips County thirty-five in Lee, eight in Monroe, and one in St. Francis.

#### VALUATION.

The value of church property in 1879, was \$5,804, and the total value of our church property as reported for the associa-

tional year ending July 27, 1889, is \$28,687, or an average yearly increase in value of \$2,542.59

#### ELDERS AND PASTORS.

The total number of elders belonging to the Association is 101, and those in charge of churches is fifty-four, and those who are without regular work in our field is forty-seven. There are also some twenty-eight ordained ministers around us, but who are not with us either in the District or State work, and a great many of this last number are not connected with any church either in this nor any other District. Thus it would seem that in these three counties there are 129 ordained elders.

Forty-two of our churches are pastored over by nineteen elders, many having from two to four each, and the other thirty-five churches have one pastor each. Thus we see the great growing evil in our District. The best regulated churches in our Association, the ones most spiritually alive, the churches raising the most money for District, State and education, and the church that pays her pastor best, is the one that have preaching every Sunday and whose pastor have only one church in charge.

#### LICENSED PREACHERS.

Of this class we have 168, as follows:

Phillips County,.....	73
Lee County,.....	56
Monroe County,.....	31
St. Francis County,.....	8

This is an evil and we hope our church will guard against it in the future.

The following Resolution and Recommendation as adopted by the Association at its regular annual meeting, held with the Walnut Grove Baptist Church at Marianna, Lee County, Ark., in July, 1884:

*Resolved*, That we advise all Churches belonging to this Association, who may desire to ordain to the work of the Gospel ministry any of her male members, to send the same, with a letter of recommendation, to the Association or the Executive Board, to be examined by a regular committee of Elders; and then, upon their certificate, the Brother shall be ordained by his Church.

The Brothers recommended for ordination by the Association under the above act, during six years: Revs. A. T. Taylor, R. W. Jeffrey, S. Easley, Rubin Summerville, Wm. Otey, W. A. Holmes, Robert Johnson, D. V. Macklin, S. Edwards, E. L. Lathan, D. D. Keiggler.

#### DEACONS.

The total number of Deacons connected with our Association is 274, of the ordained Deacons there are 213, and those on trial sixty-one, and only about one-fourth of the whole number can read,

#### MEMBERSHIP.

The Associational or church membership of our District in 1879, was 3,787, and the Lord has blessed our labors during these nine years with 4,895, additional ones. Our present membership as reported this year is 8,682, or an annual average increase of 543 8-9, and this total number divided between the number of Elders who are in charge of churches is a little over 160 each.

#### INCREASED BY BAPTISM.

In 1879, was fifty-nine, and for the year 1889, we baptised 342, the largest number during any one year was in 1886, when there was baptised 418. The total number for the nine years ending July 27, 1889, is 2,385. Increase by letter, in 1879, forty-seven, and the greatest number in these nine years was in 1887, when we received 299, and the total for the nine years is 1,648.

The number dismissed, 433; excluded, 821; restored, 436; died in ten years, 575.

As the records of the amounts paid to our pastors and for



church expenses in the first six years were not kept, the following will only give the reports for the last four years ending July 27, 1889:

First—Internal church expenses for the three years ending July 27, '89.

1887.....	\$2 892
1888.....	2 725
1889 .....	2 971

Total.....\$8 588

Second—The amounts paid for pastors salary for the four years ending July 27, 1889.

1886.....	\$ 3 065
1887.....	3 842
1888.....	4 722
1889.....	5 123

Total.....\$16 752

While the highest gets \$600 per year, and the lowest only \$20, yet an equal division of the fourth years salary between the fifty-fourth regular pastors will give a little over \$94.00 each per year.

#### ASSOCIATIONAL FINANCE.

Class A.—General receipts of the Association as collected at our annual meeting during ten years:

In 1879, we received only \$27.20. And little by little, the total amounts collected up to July 27, 1889, were:

From church letters.....	\$1 100 15
From public collections.....	129 23
From annual membership.....	34 45
From A. B. C. Envelopes.....	72 55
From extra dollar money.....	11 50
From all the board meetings.....	173 05
From other monies collected.....	150 70

Total.....\$1 671 63

## REPORT OF THE WORK OF THE

## DISBURSEMENTS.

Class B.—Itemized report of all monies paid out during ten years, both by the Association and the Executive Board :

District Minutes.....	\$ 239 00
District Missions.....	150 40
District Secretaries.....	146 00
State Convention.....	284 00
Arkansas Baptist College.....	220 00
Roger Williams University.....	154 00
Foreign Mission Convention.....	84 65
Mailing.....	35 88
Miscellaneous.....	34 65
To the Moderators.....	25 00
Other Printing.....	23 00
To Sextons.....	10 75
Stationery.....	4 10
For Boarding.....	2 00
Delegates to F. M. Convention.....	20 00
H. Pruitt.....	5 00
By the Executive Board.....	173 05

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Total.....	\$1 611 48
Balance on hand.....	26 15

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Total.....	\$1 637 63
The difference between the amount collected and the amount paid out including the balance on hand is.....	34 10

Of the amount collected by our District Board, as stated above, there was only \$72.70 raised in eight years, and all of the \$100.35 has been collected at its quarterly meeting in Phillips and Lee Counties, during the last fifteen months.

## DONATIONS.

The following charity monies collected during many years meeting of our Association, and paid out, is not included in any of the above monies :

Rev. D. H. Harris.....	\$ 17 50
“ “ “ “ .....	12 00
“ “ “ “ .....	5 00
“ Jackson Turner.....	2 80
“ S. Easley.....	2 00
Walnut Grove Church.....	8 00
Miss C. A. Talley.....	12 20
Rev. Thomas M. Wright.....	2 20
Mrs. I. Brown.....	8 15
Rev. Israel Bureal.....	26 30
“ Charles Williams.....	8 60
“ G. W. Wilson.....	5 05
“ Dr. J. P. Jay.....	4 40
“ B. Clark.....	7 80
“ D. L. Jordan.....	8 15
“ B. Brown.....	5 00
Antioch Baptist Church.....	10 35
St. John Baptist Church.....	2 50
Total.....	<u>\$148 00</u>

At each of the regular sessions of the Association the church with whom we met was credited with her annual dues. This amounts to \$30.00.

#### EXTERNAL WORK.

The monies raised in the District by the Association and individual churches for the support of the Baptist State Convention, Foreign Mission and Education :

By the Association.....	\$ 762 65
“ “ Churches.....	438 50
Total.....	<u>\$1 201 15</u>
Or \$133.46 for each year.	

The \$438.50 from churches direct to the Convention, is not included in any of the money as collected by the Association. If however, we add the two sums together, we find that we have given \$2,110.13 for the work as stated above.

## REPORT OF THE WORK OF THE

## INTERNAL WORK.

The cost of the work in our District, to date, is \$909.28, and add to this the monies paid by our churches to the District Missionary, we have \$1,600.73, which has been used within our bounds.

## A SUMMARY.

Of the monies as received by the Association from each county in the District for the four years ending July 27, 1889, (under the new law of 1886.)

COUNTIES.	Phillips.	Lee.	Monroe.	Grand total.
For African Mission.....	\$ 31 85	\$ 25 75	\$ 12 30	
For A. B. College.....	58 75	59 35	15 50	
For District Minutes.....	80 50	84 75	19 00	
For District Missions.....	59 45	60 50	19 00	
For Associational Work.....	37 80	46 05	10 50	
	<u>\$258 35</u>	<u>\$276 40</u>	<u>\$ 76 30</u>	<u>\$ 611 05</u>

It will be seen that in these collections Lee County stands \$18.05 ahead of Phillips, and \$200.10 ahead of Monroe.

## RECAPITULATION.

From all monies collected in our District, so far as we can glean, from Nov. 10, 1879, to Nov. 9, 1889, for all purposes both of the internal and external work of our churches.

By the Association.....	\$ 1 671 93
Pastor's salary for four years..	16 752 00
Internal church expenses and other monies ..	11 451 40
Collected by the missionaries.....	691 45

Total.....\$ 30 566 78

And this amount divided between the number of those baptised in our churches, it will be seen that each candidate has cost a fraction over \$12.75 per head.

Now then, if it is asked what amount of money has been raised in our District by the Association and individual churches, for the internal and external work of our Association and Convention, the answer is \$2,801.88.

Again, if it is asked how much was collected by the Association and the Missionary from the field, tell them it is \$2,363.38.

The amount of monies as collected each year at the Association :

1879.....	\$	27	20
1880.....		36	10
1881.....		35	45
1882.....		37	08
1883.....		84	05
1884.....		151	70
1885.....		198	75
1886.....		123	78
1887.....		186	25
1888.....		171	30
1889.....		294	90
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Total.....	\$1	346	56

## CHAPTER III.

### SECRETARY'S OFFICE AND MISSIONARY'S FIELD WITH REPORTS AND GENERAL WORKING.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE. }  
Helena, Ark., April 24, 1890. }

HEREWITH we give a grand summary of the monies as raised by the seventy-two churches of our District, for their individual expenses, and together with the two amounts, that sent by our churches to the Association, and that given by our churches to the District Missionaries, during the associational year ending July 27, 1889.

And the division of these monies between the number of members in our churches, as reported on the last above date.

For church expenses, pastors salary, Association and Missionary, \$7,949.20 for the year, or \$662.43 for each month.

This is per head for members per year: Association and Missionary, a fraction over four cents; for church expenses, just a small fraction less than 28½c.; for pastors salary, 59c.

Thus it will be seen that for all the work both in and out of the church our members give only 91½c. on an average per year.

The first resolution ever offered to make the annual fees from churches to the Association \$3.00, was by Rev. H. C. Pettis, in the session of July, 1883.

The total pages of minutes, tracts and circulars, distributed to date is 120,315, and at a cost of \$274.25.

HELENA, ARK., August 23, 1887.

Received of Rev. W. A. Holmes, secretary, ten dollars, as annual fee of the P., L. and M. County Association, to be paid over to the State Convention.

GEO. H. W. STEWART.

HELENA, ARK., September 26, 1888.

Received of Mr. W. A. Holmes, for printing six hundred minutes, \$38.00.

W. S. BURNETT, per McVey.

LOUISVILLE, KY., November 3, 1888.

Received of the Phillips, Lee and Monroe County District Association, for African Missions, the sum of \$10.50, for which amount the hearty thanks of the District Board are herewith tendered.

W. W. COLLEY, Ag't and Sec'y.

HELENA, ARK., September 25, 1889.

Received of Rev. W. A. Holmes, for printing nine hundred of the District and Sabbath School minutes, \$49.25.

M. KLINE.

HOLLY GROVE, MONROE CO., ARK., Feb. 8, 1890.

Received of Rev. W. A. Holmes, District Secretary, the sum of \$16.20.

WM. GOLDSBERRY, Treasurer.

The churches named below, sent to the Association, in July, 1889, in small envelopes, for the Arkansas Baptist College, the amount of money set opposite their names :

New Hope.....	\$1 20
Bethlehem .....	1 80
St. John.....	90
Mt. Olive.....	1 10
New Mt. Olive.....	3 30
Spring Lake.....	85
St. John.....	60
Jerusalem.....	2 45
Berry Chapel.....	2 55
.....	1 30
St. Luke.....	2 10
Paradise No. 1.....	4 20
New Hope No. 2.....	1 75
Mt. Mariah.....	1 20
Baptist Grove.....	2 80



Antioch.....	4 25
Philadelphia.....	1 55
Paradise No. 2.....	70
Friendship.....	60
Bethlehem.....	40
St. Paul.....	2 80
Pilgrim.....	2 65
Sequell.....	3 25
Asberry.....	50
S. Church No. 1.....	90
New Hope B.....	3 65

Below we give the names of the District Moderators, with their years of service, and all of them resided in and were pastors of churches in Lee County :

July, 1879, to July, 1880, Rev. Charles Williams.

" 1880, " " 1881,

" 1881, " " 1882,

" 1882, " " 1883, Rev. Charles Williams.

" 1883, " " 1884, Rev. D. L. Jordan.

" 1884, " " 1885, Rev. D. L. Jordan.

" 1885, " " 1886, Rev. B. Brown.

" 1886, " " 1887, Rev. D. L. Jordan.

" 1887, " " 1888, Rev. H. C. Pettis.

" 1888, " " 1889, Rev. H. C. Pettis.

" 1889, " " 1890, Rev. H. C. Pettis.

At the meeting in July, 1886, the following was adopted :

*Resolved*, That this Association subscribe for (3) three shares in the Arkansas Baptist College, and that two brethren be appointed to represent the Association in the Stockholder's Meeting.

(No. 5.)

#### CERTIFICATE OF STOCK.

Little Rock, Ark., November 6, 1889.

This certifies that the Phillips, Lee and Monroe County Association, has paid to the capital stock of the Arkansas Baptist

College, the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars, and is therefore the owner of three shares of the stock of said institution.

J. H. HOKE,  
Secretary.

E. C. MORRIS,  
President.

#### GLEANNING FROM THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE.

Minutes printed.....	4	810
About eighty-two to an average number of fifty-eight churches.....		
Circulars and reports printed.....	2	875
Small envelopes distributed to churches.....	5	700
Letters written.....		596
Postal cards.....		265
Packages of minutes sent to churches.....		642
Number of stamps used.....	1	436
Number of envelopes used.....		987
Packages of circular letters mailed in 3 years..		775
Commissions issued to missionaries.....		13

The office of the recording secretary in our District has been one of considerable labor, notwithstanding we have annually elected a corresponding secretary, yet this last position has only been a name, the recording secretary has attended to all of the business, and in visiting the Association and Executive Board meeting, they have traveled more than 1692 miles, performed 457 days of labor, or a little over fifteen months, for which they have received as pay for services \$146, and the growth of our Association has in the five years ending January 1, 1890, greatly increased the business of the office. The amount used by this office for mailing and stationery is \$62.88.

There have been four secretaries, all of whom were from Phillips County, and were members of the Centennial Baptist Church, as follows: E. C. Morris, three years; Geo. Ormond, one year; Mary J. Caver, one year; W. A. Holmes, six years.

The minutes written by these secretaries as referred to above, contained 72,925 pages of printed matter.

Herewith we append the tenth annual report which may serve for some good in the future:

## DISTRICT SECRETARY'S REPORT.

HELENA, ARK., July 24, 1889.

*To the Officers and Members of the Phillips, Lee and Monroe County, District Association:*

Dear Brothers, Greeting—By the blessing of our God I here present to you, and for your consideration, the Ninth Annual Report of the Secretary's office for the Associational year ending July 25, 1889; and, in doing so, we give thanks to our Lord and Master, and praise to the brothers who have aided us.

The growing condition of our District has necessitated more time and arduous labor for the Secretary during this year than at any time previous. We have received during this year 92 letters and 21 postal cards, or 56 letters less than last year; and we have also written and sent out 107 letters and cards, or 62 less than last year. Of the \$31.30 due the Association from Churches in our District, we have received during the year \$2.25.

We distributed among the churches and individuals 633 minutes, or 10 each to 57 churches.

### PRINTING.

August 28, 1889, Minutes printed . . . . .	650
November 7, 1889, Circulars printed . . . . .	100
May 9, 1889, Circulars printed . . . . .	100
June 12, 1889, Reports . . . . .	100
June 13, 1889, Programs . . . . .	125

Total . . . . . 1075

Number of packages, including letters, mailed  
by the Secretary this year . . . . . 362

We received for distribution among our schools and churches,  
from the A. B. P. Society, Oct. 2, 1888:

Number of Picture Lessons . . . . .	200
“ Our Little Ones . . . . .	40

"	The Sun Light.....	20
"	Bible Lessons.....	50
"	The Young Reaper.....	25
"	Our Young People.....	20
"	The Worker.....	20
"	Primary Quarterly.....	20
"	Intermediate.....	10
"	Advance.....	10
"	Senior.....	10

Total number..... 425

Total value.....\$5 90

## TRACTS.

On December 17, 1888, we received 75 packages of Tracts,  
at a cost of 5 cents each..... \$3 75

And on March 27 fifty-two packages were presented by  
the officers of Ministers and Deacons' Institute at a  
cost of..... 2 60

Total value of tracts..... \$6 35

These tracts were in two classes—

Those for the School 96 packages, or 9,984 pages

Those for the churches 31 packages or 3,224 "

Total number of packages..... 127

Total number of pages.....13,208

## BIBLES.

On January 23, 1889, we received for free distribu-  
tion, also from the Society:

25 Bibles, at 20 cents each.....\$ 5 00

50 Testaments, at 6 cents each..... 3 00

25 Union Bible Testaments, at 50 cts each... 12 50

And on March 27, 1889, a donation from the District In-  
stitute of—

25 Reference Bibles, at 45 cents each.....\$11 25

Now, then, the total value of the Sunday School  
periodicals, the tracts, and together with 125 Bibles  
and Testaments, is.....\$44 00

Two thousand small envelopes, at a cost of \$1.20, was  
donated to the District by Eld. E. C. Morris. Of these 1,425 were  
mailed to the Churches.

The total number of pages sent out from the Secretary's

office this year, including minutes, tracts, circulars, envelopes, cards, letters and Sunday School periodicals, 37,954.

## FINANCE.

The financial condition of our Association has greatly improved this year. On August 1, '88 there were \$31.15 in the treasury. In the three quarterly meetings of the District Board during the year, the following sums were collected:

Oct. 28th, Board Meeting Union Liberty Church..	\$30 35
April 27th, '89, Board Meeting Asbery Church....	18 10
June 28th, '89, Board Meeting St. John.....	6 40
Collected from Churches.....	2 25

Total.....	\$57 70
And with the amount on hand this gave us .....	88 25
Total amount paid out.....	62 10
Balance on hand, July 23.....	26 15
Balance due Secretary.....	3 65

## ITEMIZED REPORT.

Sept. 5, 1888.	Mailing Minutes.....	\$ 3 85
Oct. 27,	“ Foreign Mission.....	10 75
“ 27,	“ L'Guille River ferry.....	75
“ 27,	“ Horse hire.....	1 00
“ 27,	“ St. Francis River Ferry.....	75
“ 27,	“ C. F. Frencher, traveling expenses...	4 80
“ 27,	“ W. A. Holmes, traveling expenses...	2 80
“ 27,	“ Report for Baptist Year Book.....	3 09
“ 27,	“ First quarter Mailing expenses.....	90
“ 29,	“ Wagon hire.....	1 25
Nov. 7,	“ 100 First quarter reports board meeting	3 00
Nov. 12,	“ Stamps and envelopes 1st qrtr reports	95
Dec. 13,	“ On package of tracts.....	80
Jan. 18, 1889.	On box of Bibles from Philadelphia...	1 95
Jan. 18,	“ Drayage on box of Bibles...	20
Apr. 26,	“ Rev. C. Chandler, Ex-Missionary.....	5 00
“ 26,	“ Printing Second quarter reports.....	2 75
“ 26,	“ W. A. Holmes, Missionary, Paid.....	10 00
“ 26,	“ Mailing Expenses, second quarter....	55
“ 26,	“ Sexton of Asberry Church.....	75
“ 26,	“ Stamps and envelopes for reports.....	75

Carried forward.....\$57 15



		Brought forward.....	\$57 15
June 8,	"	Printing third quarter reports.....	2 00
" 8,	"	Printing Programs.....	2 75
" 8,	"	Wrapping paper and mucilage.....	15
" 8,	"	Stamps.....	65
Total.....			\$62 70

Respectfully,

W. A. HOLMES, Dist. Sec'y.

The first annual letter ever addressed to the Brothers from this office was in July, 1886.

## SECRETARY'S ANNUAL LETTER.

HELENA, ARK., August 13, 1889.

*To the Elders and Brothers of all Baptist Churches Throughout the Phillips, Lee and Monroe District:*

Dear Sirs—Greeting:—The God whom we serve, and the father of our Lord and Master, has granted unto us another prosperous year; and when you will have rightly considered the advancement made in our Associational work during the year ending July 31, 1889, I know that each of you will join me in giving thanks; and when you will have read these Minutes, and seen the spirit of progress manifested among the Baptists in our District, in the coming together of seventy-two Churches, with a collection of \$294.90, I hope that you will be more inspired to the great importance of doing Mission work, both Home and Foreign, and that the saving of souls for Christ, the Christianizing and evangelizing of our people, may receive your time and labor.

Numerically, our gains are greater than in any other year since the organization on November 10, 1879. When the Association adjourned we had on hand \$307.20; subtract from this \$12.30 of balance money, and we had the amount as above stated. This gives us \$108.40 over and above any other year. During the



## REPORT OF WORK OF THE

past twelve months we raised \$51.50 for Foreign Missions, and, together with the amounts furnished for the Arkansas Baptist College and State Conventions, is \$170.50. There was collected from all sources during the year, by the Board, Missionary and Association, \$437. And the amount contributed by our District for Foreign Mission, Home Mission, Denominational, Education and State Conventions for the eight years ending July 27, 1889, is \$1,112.40, and the grand total collected from November 10, 1879, to this date, by the Association, is \$1,495.78. The number of Minutes printed and distributed during the same time is 4,810.

The amount paid to pastors, church expenses and Associational work for the year was \$8,055.15.

Yours in the work for Christ,

W. A. HOLMES, District Secretary.

SECRETARY'S RECAPITULATED STATEMENT OF THE MONEY AS RECEIVED THIS YEAR IN THE FIVE REGULAR FUNDS, AND OTHER MONEYS.

The amounts received and paid out and the balance remaining in each fund for the Associational year ending July 27, 1889, are as follows:

	Received.	Paid out.	Balance.
For A. B. College.....	\$ 57 25	\$ 57 25	.. .. .
For District Missions.....	48 50	36 40	\$ 12 10
For District Minutes.....	52 25	40 00	12 25
For Associational Work.....	35 30	33 65	1 65
For Foreign Missions.....	16 50	16 50	.....
For Envelope Money.....	42 40	38 00	4 40
For Annual Members.....	16 50	8 75	7 75
For Extra Dollar Money.....	11 50	4 20	7 30
For Public Collection.....	20 70	20 00	70
For Balance on hand.....	12 30	11 75	55
	<u>\$307 20</u>	<u>\$260 50</u>	<u>\$ 46 70</u>

The Committee on Accounts made the following report

and recommendations together with the secretary's reports, which on motion was adopted:

## TO BE PAID OUT.

Secretary.....	\$ 20 00
State Convention.....	20 00
Mailing.....	3 65
Charles Williams, Missionary.....	6 40
H. C. Pettis.....	10 00
W. A. Holmes, District Missionary.....	30 00
Stationery .....	20
District Minutes.....	40 00
Arkansas Baptist College.....	30 00
Envelope Money for College Work.....	38 00
Sexton .....	4 00
African Mission Work.....	28 25
Appropriated to the Ark. Baptist College...	30 00
Total.....	<hr/> \$260 50

## DISTRICT MISSION FIELD.

Days of Labor.....	2 236
Weeks of Labor.....	319 3-7
Number of visits to Sabbath School.....	391
The Lord's Supper administered.....	132
Deacons ordained.....	67
Ministers ordained.....	28
Baptized by the Missionaries.....	97
Sermons Preached.....	892
Lectures Delivered.....	347
Miles Traveled.....	9 545
Churches Organized.....	47
Family with whom prayers were held.....	287
Bibles Distributed.. ..	205
Sabbath School Quarterlies distributed.....	661
Tracts Distributed to Schools and Churches..	1 354
Pages of Tracts Distributed.....	19 478
Monies collected.....	<hr/> \$691 45

The Missionaries field for several years included six counties, Phillips, Lee, Monroe, Prairie, Desha and St. Francis, for the last two years however, we have worked only in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th counties named above, and for a time we had three

missionaries in the field, or one to each two counties, and a great deal of good work has been accomplished by these traveling preachers, although only three of them ever presented a written report to the Association. Their pay was whatever little the churches would give them, and this together with the amount paid them by the Association and Board, they have received \$851.85 for their labor.

#### LIST OF MISSIONARIES.

Charles Williams, 7 years; D. L. Jordan, 1 year; A. R. Mitchell, 1 year; A. Fields, 1 year; Wm. Keeting, 1 year; T. Grissom, 2 years; A. C. Chandler, 2 years; W. A. Holmes, 3 years. Total; 18 years.

The following will give some idea of the reports made to the Association for the last two or three years :

## MISSIONARY'S REPORT.

HELENA, ARK., July 24, 1889.

*To the Officers and Ministers of the Phillips, Lee and Monroe Counties District Association :*

DEAR SIRs—As missionary duly appointed on October 28, 1888, for the counties of Phillips and Lee, I herewith present for your consideration my annual report for the year ending July 24, 1888. As before, I again report that I find some improvement in our District :

1. There have been five new churches built during the year.
2. Number of Sermons Preached..... 41
3. Number of Lectures to Sunday School..... 33
4. Number of Miles traveled by walking, on wagons, or horseback, or by railroad and steamboat..... 878
5. Number of houses in which we held family worship.. 23
6. Organized one Church—New Home.
7. Institute Meeting, St. Paul Church, November..... 22 to 24
8. Administered the Lord's Supper, this year..... 12
9. Funeral Sermons, Basket Dinners and Collections.
10. Dedicating unfinished churches.

[Explanations on this report were made by the Missionary.]

DATE.	CHURCHES.	DISTRIBUTIONS.			Collections.
		Bibles.	Testaments.	Tracts.	
1888					
Sept'r 30	St. Mary.....	.....	.....	.....	\$ 1 75
Oct'r 7	Jerusalem.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" 14	Bethlehem, Barton.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" 28	Union Liberty.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Nov'r 4	St. John, Indian Bay.....	.....	.....	18	1 00
" 4	Mt. Zion.....	.....	.....	.....	1 45
" 25	Walnut Bend.....	.....	.....	.....	4 15
Decem. 2	Long Lake Church.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" 9	Bethlehem, Long Lake.....	.....	.....	.....	1 00
'89-Apr 6	St. John, Phillips county.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
" 14	Sequel.....	2	.....	20	1 55
" 21	Bethlehem.....	2	1	15	40
" 27	Walnut Grove.....	.....	.....	.....	75
" 28	Asbery.....	2	1	30	.....
March 1	St. Peter.....	.....	.....	26	.....
May 5	Salem.....	2	1	19	2 50
" 5	Jerusalem.....	1	1	22	1 25
" 12	Mt. Sinai.....	.....	.....	10	1 00
" 19	Paradise.....	2	1	18	1 65
" 19	New Home.....	1	1	18	1 40
" 26	Hempshire.....	1	.....	34	1 05
June 2	Philadelphia.....	1	1	14	1 00
" 2	Holly Grove, 1st Baptist Church.....	.....	.....	.....	1 25
" 8	St. John's Church.....	.....	.....	.....	2 00
" 16	Pilgrim.....	1	1	12	40
" 16	New Home Church.....	.....	.....	.....	65
" 23	Spring Lake Church.....	2	1	4	1 00
" 30	Macedonia Church.....	2	1	.....	2 00
July 7	New Mt. Olive Church.....	1	.....	12	1 30
" 7	Old Mt. Olive Church.....	2	1	13	.....
" 14	Pleasant Grove, Trenton.....	2	1	12	.....
" 14	Poplar Grove 1st Baptist Church.....	.....	.....	.....	20
" 18	Poplar Grove Friendship Church.....	1	1	7	.....
" 27	Black-pool Church.....	7	.....	6	40
TOTALS.....		26	14	320	\$31 10

I only ask you for the 75c sent by each church for the District Mission.  
Respectfully,  
W. A. HOLMES.

## CHAPTER IV.

### THE TWENTY-FOUR EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS, DATES AND PLACES, WITH A SYNOPSIS OF EACH PROCEEDING.

THE following is an itemized report of some of the Executive Board's meetings, with dates and places. The first one of which we have any record may here be stated briefly:

On November 3, 1883, we received a letter from Sequell Baptist Church requesting the Board to meet with them, and there to settle, if possible, a difficulty between Elder James Rush and and Paradise Church; and, in obedience to their request, on November 15, 1883, the Board convened with the above named church, and, after a careful examination, the hand of fellowship was withdrawn from Bro. Rush.

Letters from New Hope Church, recommending Bro. Arthur Taylor, and from St. Joseph, recommending Bro. R. Somerville for ordination, were received and referred.

#### RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED.

(1) *Resolved*, That we will not fellowship any minister who will knowingly organize a church with excluded members from other churches, either in whole or in part; (2) that we, as churches and elders, will not associate ministerially with any preacher whose membership is not in some church, and who is not in fellowship with this or some other Association or State Convention; (3) That we will not invite into our pulpits, nor recommend to any church, any preacher who is known to be a drunkard, either in public or private, and whose reputation in the community in which he or they lives is not altogether good and respectable.



And there was a special meeting of the Board at Antioch Baptist Church, in Lee county, on December 29, 1883. At this place the two brothers whose cases were referred from the November meeting, together with Bros. Jackson and George Arnett, were, after a careful examination, requested to give themselves to study for twelve months longer,

In compliance with a letter dated February 4th, from Walnut Grove Church, near Marianna, in Lee county, requesting the presence of the Board as an ordination council, the Board did, on February 23rd, 1884, after a careful and satisfactory examination, ordain Rev. Wm. Otey to the work of the gospel ministry.

At a regular Board meeting, and the largest in number of members and visitors (about 40 in all), held during the first ten years of the Association's existence, was with Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, at LaGrange, Lee county, Ark, April 23, 1884. Among other things done, was the trial of Bro. J. J. Lester for selling certificates of ordination to persons not authorized to buy them, and upon his acknowledgement was exonerated, and a resolution authorizing the corresponding secretary of the Association (W. A. Holmes) to issue printed notices calling upon the Sabbath schools to elect two delegates each for the organization of a Sunday School Convention on July 25, 1884.

Revs. B. Clarke, J. J. Lester, E. C. Morris and W. A. Holmes were appointed as delegates to represent the Phillips, Lee and Monroe Association in the East Arkansas Association at Forrest City in July, 1884.

With St. Luke church, at Duncan Station, Monroe county, on Friday, October 31, 1884, an order from Prof. G. H. W. Stewart for \$10.00 on printing of minutes was refused upon the ground



that he had only given us 310 minutes of the proceedings of the Association, when 500 were ordered.

The brothers were called together at the Hampshire Baptist Church on the 30th day of November, 1885, to ordain Bro. R. C. Hinton.

Spring Lake Baptist church, near Hyde Park, Phillips county, January 24, 1885.—The ordination of Albert Bennett at Mt. Zion church, as reported by Rev. Wm. Goldsberry, was condemned by Rev. S. A. Mosley. The Lockhart case was referred to the next meeting.

Resolution by Rev. S. A. Mosley :

WHEREAS, our District work is improving in every way and the importance of keeping a correct record of our proceedings is of paramount importance, therefore be it

*Resolved*, That the sum of \$2.00 be appropriated for the purchase of a suitable book to be kept by the secretary for this purpose.\*

MARVELL, PHILLIPS CO., ARK., April 25, 1885.

*Editor Arkansas Times :*

DEAR SIR—The Executive Board of the Phillips, Lee, Monroe, Desha, Prairie and St. Francis County District Association, convened in its third quarterly session with St. Luke Baptist Church, at 10:30 a. m., and after the usual opening on the call of the roll, the following named brothers were present: D. L. Jordan, S. M. Fisher, E. C. Morris, Wm. Goldsberry, R. W. Rose, S. A. Mosely and W. A. Holmes. Also Revs. T. Grissom and C. Williams, District Missionaries, were present, and a good number of others; and among other things done, Bro. Wm. Keiting, as District Missionary was recalled and Rev. A. Chandler appointed to fill the unexpired term. The right hand of fellowship was withdrawn from Bro. S. M. Brown, of Indian Bay, and the two young brothers who were recommended for ordination

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\*We state here, however, that the money was not raised, and, therefore, this book has not been bought, and the one in use to-day was purchased by W. A. Holmes in March, 1885.

were, after a careful examination, referred to the District Association. A petition from Mr. R. H. Newsom was referred to a committee of three, and upon the report of the same was ordered printed and sent to the District Association for its final action.

The Board appropriated the sum of \$     for our school at Little Rock; also, the sum of \$     to the *Arkansas Times*.

The case of Rev. W. Lockhart was called up, and after considering the same his office as vice-Moderator was declared vacant, and the right hand of fellowship withdrawn from him, and written notice of the same was ordered sent to Walnut Grove and Mount City Baptist Churches, and the secretary was directed to have printed 100 cards to be sent to the churches and Sunday schools throughout the District to inform them of the time and place of meeting. A resolution was also drafted and the secretary was ordered to send a copy of the same to the State Board, suggesting the idea of changing the meeting of the next State Convention from Brinkley to Monticello, or such other place as they may think best.

A charge was entered against Rev. Thomas Walker for the illegal ordination of Bro. Bennett. Referred to the Association.

A resolution was adopted thanking the Rev. Caleb Lee and his very kind members, and the people generally, for their hospitality.

D. L. JORDAN, Moderator.  
W. A. HOLMES, Secty.

The following is a true copy of the original letter sent to Walnut Grove Baptist Church:

MARVELL, PHILLIPS Co., ARK., April 25, 1885.

*To the Officers and Members of Walnut Grove Baptist Church, at Marianna, Lee Co., Ark.:*

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS—GREETING: This comes to inform you that at a regular meeting of the Executive Board, after a careful consideration of the pending case of Rev. W. Lockhart, the Board did, on motion of Rev. S. M. Fisher, withdraw the right hand of fellowship from Rev. W. Lockhart, and declared his office as vice-moderator of the District vacant.

By order of the Board.

D. L. JORDAN, Moderator.  
W. A. HOLMES, Dis.Secty.

The following, which we give in full, was the only meeting of the Board held between July, 1885, and July, 1886:

### PROCEEDINGS OF BOARD MEETING.

PILGRIM CHURCH, LEE CO., ARK.,

October 16, 1885.

The Executive Board of the Phillips, Lee and Monroe County District Association met on the above date with Pilgrim Baptist Church. The Moderator, Rev. B. Brown, called the meeting to order and stated its object. Hymn 124 was sung and prayer was offered by Rev. R. W. Rose. Revs. J. C. Blount, W. A. Holmes, and S. Foster, were by motion accorded the privilege of honorary members. On motion, W. A. Holmes was elected temporary secretary. The following petition was presented and read before the Board:

LEXINGTON, ARK., October 15, 1885.

*To the Officers and Members of the Executive Board of the Phillips, Lee and Monroe County District Association:*

DEAR BRETHREN: In accordance with a resolution adopted by the District Association, the Rendric Grove Baptist Church presents to your board for examination for ordination our beloved Bro. J. M. Harris, whom we believe to be called of God to the work of the gospel ministry, and if you find him qualified, please inform us by return mail, and the church will call a Council and have him set apart to that work. By order of the Church.

E. D. WARD, Moderator.

D. D. PHILLIPS, Clerk.

After the reception of the above the Moderator appointed the following named Elders to conduct the examination: Jackson Turner, R. W. Rose, J. C. Blount and E. C. Morris. The committee at once proceeded to examine the candidate, which consumed all of the afternoon. The following is the report of the committee:

BROTHER MODERATOR: We, your committee have very carefully examined the applicant for ordination, and have agreed to

the following: 1st. That Bro. Harris is deficient in some of his studies, but is sound in the doctrines of the Bible. 2nd. That he presents evidence of a good Christian character and he has a good report of them which are without and being found to this extent qualified, and the pressing desire for his services to the church, which has called him to their charge, we therefore recommend his ordination.

R. W. ROSE, Moderator.

J. C. BLOUNT, Secretary.

Adjourned. W. A. HOLMES, Secretary pro tem.

Saturday morning session opened at 9 o'clock. Divine services conducted by Rev. Wm. Jarrett. The proceedings of the previous day's session were read and adopted. A motion prevailed to have the proceedings of each Board meeting published in pamphlet form and distributed among the churches.

Representatives from Old Mount Zion and New Mount Zion Churches appeared in the meeting with matters of grievances which were caused by the latter receiving members from the former without letters of recommendation. After a few words of advice from the Moderator and others the representatives agreed among themselves that the matter could be easily settled at home. A resolution was adopted, indorsing the efforts of Rev. R. W. Rose in establishing a Baptist Church at Holly Grove, Ark.

A short address was delivered by Rev. E. C. Morris, urging the brethren to be ready to meet the stockholders' meeting of the Arkansas Baptist College, at Little Rock, on the 3d day of November, 1885.

R. BROWN, Moderator.

On motion, adjourned.

W. A. HOLMES, Secretary pro tem.

There was a meeting of the Board called to convene with Berry Chapel, in Clarendon, Monroe county, in October, 1886, but owing to the rainy weather there was no gathering of the members, and, therefore, no business was transacted.

The special meeting of the Board at Marianna, in Lee county, on December 16, 1886, was an interesting one, and the secretary was ordered to have 100 of the following circulars printed and distributed:



## REPORT OF THE WORK OF THE

## CIRCULAR LETTER.

HELENA, ARK., January 15, 1887.

Rev \_\_\_\_\_  
 Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ Baptist Church.

Dear Brother :

At the second quarterly meeting of the Executive Board, December 17, 1886, in Marianna, the question of support for the assistant teacher in The Arkansas Baptist College was discussed, and whereupon the following resolution was adopted and the District Secretary ordered to send the same to each church comprising the Phillips, Lee and Monroe Association :

*Resolved*, That this Association will pay to the assistant teacher in our school \$10 00 per month ; and that each of us will obligate ourselves to pay \$1 00 per month for that purpose ; and that the same be sent to the secretary at Helena, and that he be authorized to pay it over to the proper authority.

D. L. JORDAN, Moderator,  
 W. A. HOLMES, Secretary.

We may add just here that from and after the above date the meetings of the Board began to grow more and more interesting, and have attracted considerable attention all over our District.

With Bethlehem Baptist church, below Helena on the river, the Executive Board convened on May 29, 1887. At this meeting 100 notices of the meeting of the Association, together with blank forms of church letters, were ordered printed, and the first time our small envelopes were ever printed to be sent to our churches for tokens and collections for the Arkansas Baptist College from the churches of our Association, was at this meeting, and we sent 2,000 of the form as follows :

\$5,000 needed for the Arkansas Baptist  
 College—"God loveth the cheerful giver."

*To the Phillips, Lee and Monroe County As-  
 sociation:*

I feel it my duty to give to the cause  
 of Education \$.....

Name.....

P. O. .... Date.....

The total cost, including the printing of these envelopes, was \$3 00, and the amount received from them at the annual meeting in July, 1887, was \$30 15.

There was a meeting at Spring Lake church on October 28, 1887. Here \$10 was appropriated for the Arkansas Baptist College, and a general statistical report of the whole District for the Baptist Year Book was ordered written, and the resolution on Page 5, Minutes of '87, relative to the church extension, deeds, and appointment of trustees in our churches, was referred to a committee for further consideration, and this report was not made.

In the year 1888 the first Executive Board meeting was on April 27, at Walnut Grove Baptist church, Lee county. The Rev. W. A. Holmes was first appointed District Missionary at this place for the Counties of Phillips and Lee.

We had quite an enthusiastic meeting with Union Liberty church, at Park Place on the St. Francis river, October 26, 1888. This church gave the largest amount of money ever collected at any similar meeting in the ten years—\$30 35, and, at the same time, in getting over there and back the expense was larger than ever—\$17 60. A resolution by Rev. C. F. Fencer, as follows:

The Board begs leave to advise all churches to have preaching in their churches every Sunday, and Sabbath School for the moral, spiritual and intellectual training of the children on every Sunday without fail. No pastor should be called to the oversight of a church who cannot give it his service every Sunday, and especially in the Sabbath School; and all pastors that have more than one church we advise to give up all but one. Take warning, dear brethren, for years of experience has taught us all that when the Pastor gives his whole time to the services of one church, then the spiritual interest, which is the life of the church, is kept up, on the other hand, we can all see the condition of all those churches in our District where the pastor is with them



only once or twice per month. Try it, brethren, you will find that one church, well attended to, will give you a much better support than two or three churches half attended to. No shepherd can watch over a flock and keep the wolves which are so common in this country, from destroying them; when he is only with his sheep once or twice in thirty days, the devil is the pastor the other twenty-eight days in each month.

The churches are here advised that, after January, 1890, not to accept any one as pastor who cannot give his whole time to the work in training your children and making the church a school house for the spiritual and moral elevation of the members.

#### LETTER READ.

HELENA, ARK., October 25, 1888.

*To the Moderator and Members of the Executive Board of the Phillips, Lee and Monroe County Association :*

DEAR BRETHREN--I regret very much that circumstances over which I have no control will prevent my being present in this meeting of the Board; however, I bespeak for you a pleasant and profitable time. The young and progressive pastor and the membership of his church, with whom you meet, will doubtless make your meeting a source of joy and comfort, as well as well as one of profit, while you sojourn in their midst.

There are matters of grave importance which should be considered by you. Our entire District is in great need of a revolution in its financial matters. All the Districts of the State are excelling us in substantial progress. More new churches are being built, and land being bought, and general improvements being made than we are making, and they have less numbers than we have. I do not mean, of course, that the Board is to build churches and buy land, but it is the duty of the Board to encourage the churches to do these things. God is prospering the different sections of the State in proportion as they are helping in the general work of the denomination. For example, compare the White River District with ours. They give to the Baptist College \$150 00 a year; we give \$30 00. They have about 40 churches; we have about 60. Their pastors are nearly all paid a salary; ours preach for nothing. They are building new houses; ours are falling down, etc. These are matters for

you, as leaders, to consider, and if you can find the cause, then apply the remedy.

Try and enforce your resolution that pastors only take the oversight of one church, and go there and labor with that one church until he has built a good house and paid for it. I would advise that the Board take steps to employ a competent missionary for the District, and that they require him to give his entire time to the work, and see to it that he makes a report every three months of the number of sermons preached, number of lectures delivered, number of miles traveled, number of families visited, number of subscriptions taken for the *Baptist*, amount of money collected for expenses, amount collected for College, amount collected for Africa, and that he be paid in proportion to the work which he does. I feel sure that the State Board will co-operate with our Board in the appointment of such a man. The name of Bro. Holmes will be presented to the State Board next week, and if your Board will endorse him I am satisfied that he will receive the appointment. It may seem to you that it would be better for the Board to put out more missionaries than one, but I think not. If you have ministers who cannot get work to do, let them go to Africa or somewhere else; don't burden your people with them, for we only need a missionary to carry general information, books and tracts to the people, and receive their offerings and report them to you.

Respectfully yours,

E. C. MORRIS.

This communication was first received at the Annual Meeting of the Association at Duncan Station, Monroe County, Ark., July 27, 1888, and from there it was referred as stated below:

A communication from Antioch Baptist church was received and read the first time, and on motion referred to the Executive Board as follows:

*To the Officers and Members of the Phillips Lee and Monroe District Association:*

DEAR BROTHERS:—We send you our good wishes and may God abide with you my brothers and bless your good work. We take pleasure in introducing to you Bro. D. D. Keiggler, a young preacher of our church, one that we believe from his usefulness about the Sabbath School and church is called of our God to preach the gospel. He desires to attend the Bible school

this winter, and our church will aid him all we can, and we ask the aid of the Association in sending our brother two or three months during this winter. Answer.

Respectfully,

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH.

Spring Creek, Lee County, Ark., July 23. 1888.

## CIRCULAR LETTER.

HELENA, ARK., April 29, 1889.

*To the Pastor and Members of..... Baptist Church. The Executive Board of the Phillips, Lee and Monroe County District Association, Sendeth Christian Greeting:*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

On Friday April 26th inst., the Board convened in its second quarterly meeting with Asberry Baptist church at Marvell, Phillips County, Ark., and at 12:30 p. m., Rev. R. M. Chandler called the meeting to order, and after reading, singing and prayer, Rev's. C. F. Fencher, E. C. Morris, C. Chandler, C. Lee, W. A. Holmes, A. Fields and R. M. Chandler answered to the call of their names, and by invitations Bro's. J. D. Irvin, G. W. Walker W. M. Wilson and others were made welcome. A short statement relative to the business to be attended to by the Board was made by the Moderator, and after which the reports of the District Secretary and Missionary for Phillips and Lee County was read and referred to a special committee. At 3:25 p. m., the Board after accepting an invitation to dinner from a committee of sisters and brothers from Asberry church, adjourned.

At 7:30 p. m., Rev. E. C. Morris preached to a large and crowded house.

SATURDAY MORNING, April 27th., 1889.

After the opening service, the roll was called and the minutes of Friday's session read and adopted.

We give by detail the following special orders and recommendations of the Board :

1. The hand of fellowship was withdrawn from Rev. S. Easley, for conduct unbecoming a Christian Minister, and the secretary ordered to notify his church, of the same.

2. In order to meet our obligations to the Arkansas Baptist College this year, the Board authorized the printing of 4,000 envelopes to be distributed among the churches for a free will offering, and that the names of all those who give together with the total amount from each church are to be printed in the District minutes.

3. A resolution of condolence, expressing the sympathy of the Executive Board to sister P. F. Price and family, in their grief over the insane condition of Rev. P. F. Price, to them a husband and father, and to us a brother and fellow-laborer in the Gospel of Christ, was ordered to be sent by the secretary.

4. The secretary reported to the Board that he had received for free distribution among the churches, Sabbath School and poor families, 127 packages of tracts, or 13,183 pages, together with 75 testaments and 75 Bibles at a total cost of \$39.35.

5. The members of the Board, and friends of the cause of Christ, at the meeting all agreed to give one dollar (\$1.00) extra to the Association this year in order that we may further the Master's work, and all churches are respectfully requested to do the same, making the amount from each church this year \$4.00.

6. The Vice-President of the District Sabbath School Convention is very respectfully requested to call his Board to meet with the brothers at St. John's Baptist church, near Marianna, on Saturday before the second Sunday in June.

7. Secretary's financial report for the second quarter ending April 27th 1889 :

Balance on hand November 1st, 1888.....	\$31.40
Collected during Second Quarter.....	18.10

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Total.....	\$49.50
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Disbursements during Second Quarter .....	22.65
---	-------

Balance on hand May 1st, 1889 ..	26.85
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Respectfully, C. F. FENCHER, Vice-Moderator.

W. A. HOLMES, District Secretary.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

On Saturday, June 8th, 1889, the Board convened in its third quarterly meeting with St. John Baptist church Lee County, Ark., at 9:20 o'clock a. m., the Moderator called the meeting to order. Devotional exercises by Rev. E. C. Morris. The following members of the Board were present: Rev's. H. C. Pettis, Jackson Turner, E. C. Morris, J. H. Green, W. D. Huggins, W. A. Holmes, T. L. Ashe, P. B. Brown, D. D. Keiggler, D. L. Jordan and twenty (20) or more other brethren attended the meeting.

The following items are among the special orders and recommendations of the Board.

1. Rev's. E. C. Morris and W. A. Holmes, were appointed to prepare a program for the three days sessions of the Association.

2. The report of Rev. C. Williams, Missionary for Monroe and Desha counties was received and approved.

3. The case of Rev. S. Easley, was taken up and carefully discussed and upon his acknowledgement to the charges, and his prayer for pardon with a promise to do better, on motion the hand of fellowship was extended to him by all the brethren present. The Secretary was ordered to write letters notifying the Bethlehem church at Duncan Station, and Travelers Baptist church, Holly Grove.

4. A committee of five were appointed to examine the following brethren: D. V. Macklin, P. E. Filer and S. Edwards, who came with letters of recommendation from their churches. After careful consideration their report was as follows: Bro. S. Edwards to be ordained on the first Sunday in July at Hampshire church. Bro. D. V. Macklin, to be ordained as soon as a field of labor can be found for him. Bro. P. E. Filer was found unqualified and recommended to study longer.

5. With this we send you 35 small envelopes. The Board requests the Pastor and other officers to give them out to the members of their churches and ask them to give all they can for educational work of our Baptist College. The envelopes must be returned to the Association by the delegates from your



churches and the name and amount of all those who give, must be written on the back of your envelopes, so that we can have them printed in our District Minutes.

6. Clerks of churches, will please be careful in making out their annual report on the blank form sent with this.

7. A great many churches have promised to send one dollar (\$1.00) extra to the Association, and it is hoped that all churches will do the same in order that we may raise \$60.00 to pay our indebtedness to the Arkansas Baptist College.

THE LETTER TO THE TWO CHURCHES AS NAMED ABOVE.

HELENA, ARK., June 13, 1890.

*To the Officers and Members of Bethlehem Baptist Church :*

DEAR BROTHERS:—This will inform you that the case of Rev. S. Easley was taken up by the District Board in regular session on June 8, and upon his acknowledgement to the charge against him and his prayer for pardon, together with his promise to do and live better, the hand of fellowship was given to the brother. Respectfully yours in the Light of Christ,

W. A. HOLMES, District Secretary.

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The Executive Board send Christian greeting, and beg to say that at a special meeting of the Board, held with the Centennial Baptist Church on August 12, 1889, after thanking the Master for the many blessings which attended our labors in the past year and carefully considering the condition of our District, the need of more help from our churches with which to do mission work, and the importance of doing a greater work in this Associational year than we did in the last, in order that the force of our churches may be brought together, and the spiritual, moral and intellectual banner of Christ raised up higher as the beacon light for the coming out of our people from the darkness of the past unto the light of the age in which we live, and that we may keep in sight of other Districts who are doing so much for the College, Foreign Mission, and in the distribution of Bibles and tracts. In furtherance, the following resolution was adopted and ordered sent to each church in the District :



*Resolved*, That each church in the Association be requested to take up a missionary collection on any Sunday during the months of September or October, for the purpose of doing a more effective work in building up our District; and that the amount raised be sent to Rev. Wm. Goldsberry, treasurer, Hyde Park, Phillips county, Ark., and who shall send in return a receipt, so that when the District missionary comes to your church you will not have to give him a collection.

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JERUSALEM BAPTIST CHURCH, OLD TOWN RIDGE, )  
Saturday, October 12, 1889. }

The following items, which are given by detail, are among the special orders and recommendations of the Board:

The quarterly report of the District secretary, and of the regular and special District missionaries, were encouraging, and showed a good work for this quarter, and a communication from the president of the State Convention was received.

Revs. C. F. Fencher and A. Blakely were appointed delegates to the extra session of the State Convention, and appropriation was made for the same.

Rev. W. A. Holmes was appointed to deliver the Welcome Address to the convention in behalf of the District.

The deacons and pastors of churches are called upon to collect the sum of 25 cents for each month of August, September and October, for District missionary work, and send the same on to the treasurer at Hyde Park, according to the agreement of all the delegates at the Association in July. Every church in this District is under obligation by the voice of their delegates, and this 75 cents is now due from each church. God is looking at the promise you made, and how can you expect for the Board to do the work which you ordered them to do when you give nothing to work with.

The secretary was ordered to turn over to Rev. D. V. Macklin, District Sabbath School Superintendent, all bibles, testaments and tracts which he has on hand for school work.

The Board advises, that in order for our District to aid in ed-

ucational and other work of the State, all the churches be represented in the extra session of the State Convention, which meets in Helena on Thursday before the fourth Sunday in October, by sending their delegates and the sum of \$3 00.

The secretary was ordered to write Rev. R. M. Chandler relative to some unfinished business of the Board at Marvell on April 27, 1889.

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DISTRICT FINANCE FOR THE QUARTER ENDING OCTOBER 15, 1889.

Balance on hand, August 12.....	\$30 75
Collected durins this quarter.....	26 40
	<hr/>
Total.....	\$57 15
Expenses during the quarter.....	34 10
	<hr/>
Balance on hand Oct, 15.....	\$23 05

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The following is the twenty-third and last meeting of the Executive Board, held with Traveler's Rest Baptist Church, in Monroe county, February 8, 1890, or just before the close of this pamphlet:

The following items are among the special orders and recommendations of the Board:

Letters from Antioch and Belmont Baptist Church were received, recommending Bros. D. D. Keiggler and E. L. Lathan for examination for ordination, and the Board after a careful and satisfactory examination, unanimously voted their approval of the above named brothers to be set apart to the work of the gospel ministry by their churches.

The three resolutions as adopted by the Tenth Anniversary at Pilgrim Baptist Church, November 9, 1889, and sent to the Board for approval, were taken up, and after due consideration adopted and ordered printed. (See Page ...)

The churches of Phillips county are respectfully requested to elect two sisters as delegates to meet at Blackfoot Baptist Church, on Saturday before the second Sunday in April, for organization.

The churches of Lee county will please elect their two delegate sisters to meet at Bethlehem Baptist Church, on Saturday before the second Sunday in May, for organization.

The churches of Monroe county will please do likewise and elect two sisters as delegates to meet at St. Luke Baptist Church, on Saturday before the first Sunday in June, for organization.

A number of our churches have already adopted the plan suggested some time ago.

Traveler's Rest Baptist Church collects 50 cents per month from each of her members, 25 cents of this goes into her general fund to provide for her helpless sick and for the burial of her dead; and the other 25 cents is to be used for the pastor's salary. This plan works well, and it would not be out of place for other churches to do likewise. Respectfully,

H. C. PETTIS, Moderator.

W. A. HOLMES, Secretary.

At each annual meeting of the Association, and immediately after its adjournment, the Board appointed for the year convenes to fix the dates for its meetings during the year, pay off all bills as ordered by the Association. No monies were ever appropriated by the Association for the traveling expenses of our Board, and no member of the Board ever got any mileage until the meeting of the Board at Union Liberty Baptist Church, Park place, in Lee county, on October 26, 1888.

## CHAPTER V.

### LETTERS COMMISSIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.

THE annexed Resolution and Circular Letter were adopted by the Phillips, Lee and Monroe County Association, at Marianna, August 1, 1884.

*Resolved*, That the following letter be published in circular form, and that there be two thousand of them ordered printed and distributed among our churches :

#### CIRCULAR LETTER.

*To the Officers and Members of the Baptist Churches, and the Public Generally in Eastern Arkansas :*

We, the undersigned representatives of the Baptist churches in Eastern Arkansas, in association assembled, do hereby express our disapproval, and denounce in the strongest terms, the so-called basket meetings, or railroad excursions, given on the Sabbath Day, as being a desecration of the Sabbath, and further it is our opinion that such gatherings are demoralizing, and that the young ladies and young men of our race are the unfortunates ; and further, they are robbing our people of their hard earned means, and our congregations are made poorer by them, thereby disarming the churches of the means that should be used in carrying out their mission, therefore we most earnestly enter our protest against them, charging them with destroying our race, morally, religiously, and financially ; and we do hereby obligate ourselves to use every means in our power to suppress this growing evil, and further promise to have no fellowship with any

brother who may hereafter engage in them. Respectfully,

E. C. Morris,  
 P. T. Price,  
 Isam Lockhart,  
 S. A. Mosely,  
 Charles Williams,  
 M. M. Murdock,  
 W. A. Holmes,  
 W. Moody,  
 E. D. Ward,  
 A. H. Harris,  
 G. E. Arnett,  
 James Luster,  
 John E. Butler,  
 D. L. Jordan,  
 A. Harris,  
 Henry Davis,  
 J. C. Ford,  
 S. B. Bentley,  
 L. A. Parham,  
 C. H. Hall,  
 C. R. Stringer,  
 P. T. Frierson,  
 J. W. Gardner,  
 D. D. Chilis,  
 G. P. Patterson,  
 R. W. Jeffries,  
 A. C. Chandler,  
 D. D. Evans,  
 E. D. Washington,  
 R. H. Newsum,  
 J. A. Jackson,

W. H. Sanders,  
 J. O. Points,  
 J. Turner,  
 E. C. Carter,  
 William Keeting,  
 C. Bentley,  
 N. Norington,  
 Samuel Elam,  
 J. P. Paterson,  
 Geo. W. Washington,  
 J. W. Whitley,  
 M. A. Mitchener,  
 Wm. Mason,  
 Whit. Temples,  
 W. D. Huggins,  
 Wm. Jarratt,  
 Lewis Robinson,  
 W. K. Jones,  
 J. S. Easley,  
 E. D. Mayon,  
 S. L. Henderson,  
 J. W. Cross,  
 B. Brown,  
 A. Douglas,  
 Mercer Jenkins,  
 J. H. Harris,  
 James Rush,  
 C. H. White,  
 J. H. Culler,  
 W. Lockhart.,  
 Samuel Brown.

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HELENA, ARK., August 6, 1884.

REV. W. A. HOLMES—Dear Brother: It you will furnish me with a list of all the churches which are entitled to representation in the Convention, I will make out the credentials and forward them to you; also, I send complete statistics of all the churches. This is a matter that cannot be overlooked and should



be attended to at once, and, as you have so much to do, if you will send the things I mention I will help you. The resolution in respect to excursions was to be printed separately. I have it here. If you will send me an order on the treasurer for \$5 00 I will have 3,000 copies of them printed and distribute them over the country. I may come up to-morrow.

Yours truly,

E. C. MORRIS.

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OFFICE OF "THE GOLDEN EPOCH,"  
HELENA, ARK., Oct. 20, 1884. }

REV. W. A. HOLMES—Dear Brother: Yours in regard to Minutes received. In explanation of the number of Minutes printed, you will remember that the Association ordered 500, and afterwards Rev. E. C. Morris changed the order to 300. He says that it was well understood between you and him about this reduction. You will probably hear from him to-day about the matter. You will please give me credit for ten Minutes given by order of Rev. E. C. Morris to Rev. J. Wallace, which, added to the number sent you to Marianna and Cincinnati, makes 307—seven more than the order. Trusting that this is satisfactory, you will please to send an order on the treasurer for \$10 00, balance due, and oblige,

Yours truly,

GEO. H. W. STEWART.

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FROM THE BAPTIST CHURCHES OF POPLAR GROVE.

April 5, 1885.

To W. A. HOLMES, Secretary—Dear Sir: By you to the Executive Board, which will convene at Marvell, Ark., on April 25. Dear Brothers, as our church is without a pastor we give this brother, Andrew Johnson, a letter to come before the Board and be examined, and if you find him qualified, then ordain him for our service. Dear brothers, it grieves us to give up our old pas-



tor, but the time has come when we cannot hold him any longer. We regret very much that the Baptist church of Poplar Grove has lost a good preacher and earnest worker in the cause. At this time we feel the loss of him. In his place we present this brother, who is held in high esteem by our church.

By order of the church.

L. BEASELY. Clerk.

OLD TOWN RIDGE, )  
Phillips Co., Ark., Oct. 9, 1887. }

ELDER AND BROTHER W. A. HOLMES—Dear Sir: The Salem Baptist Church do very respectfully invite you to meet with us on Saturday before the third Sunday in this month, to sit in council with ten other brothers for the careful consideration and settlement of the pending case between this and Jerusalem Church. Please don't fail to come. This done by order of the church.

DOM WILLIAMS, Clerk.

BARTON STATION, PHILLIPS CO., ARK., )  
November 10, 1887. }

REV. W. A. HOLMES, District Secretary—Dear Sir: We, the undersigned members and deacons of St. Paul Church No. 2, call you in your official capacity to sit in council to be held at said church on Saturday, November 19, 1887, at 10 o'clock a. m. We will look for you. Yours in Christ,

A. LANCASTER,  
D. McKISICS.

BOWLING GREEN, KY., Nov. 14, 1887.

REV. W. A. HOLMES—Dear Brother: I have written to Dr. Griffith, Secretary of the Publication Society, enclosing your two letters to me. I hope he will be able to send you some books. I have authorized him to send two copies of "Brief Notes," two of "Distinctive Principles," and two "Notes of

Sermons," and 20 copies of the tract "Man a Sinner," and charge to my account. They will be sent by mail, unless a package or box is sent. When you receive them let me know.

Yours,

J. M. PENDLETON.

MEMPHIS, TENN, Nov. 22, 1887.

DEAR BROTHER W. A. HOLMES: Yours to hand. I approve of your idea to conduct a special bible course at LaGrange for the brothers of your District. I don't know that I shall have the time to be with you; if I can, I will. Enclosed find a copy of "The Plan for Helping Colored Pastors." If I can be of any other service to you, write me. I will conduct a similar institute at Forest City on December 22 to 24. Meet me there.

Truly yours,

H. WOODSMALL.

MARIANA, ARK., April 27, 1888.

*To the Elders and Members of Regular Baptist Churches:*

DEAR BROTHERS: This is to certify that at a meeting of the Executive Board of the Association on the above date, our brother, W. A. Holmes, was, after due consideration, duly appointed a special missionary to labor in the cause of Christ among all the churches in the Phillips, Lee and Monroe District until August 1, 1888. In furtherance, we, the undersigned, do heartily recommend our brother to all churches, and pray that your hearty support in his work will be given.

Yours in Christ,

H. C. PETTIS, Moderator,  
WM. OTEY, Acting Sect'y.

AMERICAN BAPTIST PUBLICATION SOCIETY,  
PHILADELPHIA, December 17, 1888.

*Rev. W. A. Holmes, Helena, Ark.:*

DEAR BROTHER: We send you this day by freight a box containing the following, viz.:

## REPORT OF WORK OF THE

25 Bibles at 20c.....	\$ 5 00
50 Testaments at 6c.....	3 00
25 Bible Union Testaments at 50c.....	12 50

Donated to the District Association for free distribution, by the above Society. Please acknowledge the receipt of same.

Yours truly,

C. C. BITTING,  
M. and Bible Society.

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HOLLY GROVE, ARK., Aug. 6, 1889.

REV. W. A. HOLMES--Dear Sir and Brother; Your card of the 5th inst. is before me and contents noted. Our Association meets Friday before the third Lord's day in August, at St. Matthew's. Your presence with us is greatly desired. Your nearest point to the church is at Palmer Station. We are all well and hoping this may find you the same.

I am yours in Christ,

G. W. LOWE.

P. S.—Write to Bro. Robert Edwards to meet you there.

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MARIANNA, LEE Co., ARK., Nov. 18, 1889.

*Rev. W. A. Holmes, District Secretary, Helena, Ark.:*

DEAR BROTHER: Yours of a recent date to hand. I was at Hampshire last Sunday, and all eyes looked for you until a late hour to assist in the ordination of Bro. S Edwards. I have written to many of the brothers and churches notifying them of the 25c for our missionary work in the District this associational year. Your financial report at the Tenth Anniversary has given much satisfaction among the brothers in these parts. Please give full time in your notice to the Board members for a full attendance at our next meeting. If we can keep alive the work and good spirit which was manifested at our Association in July, there is no telling what we in the future will accomplish for God.

Respectfully yours,

H. C. PETTIS.

PETERS' LANDING, LEE CO., ARK., {  
November 20, 1889, }

*Rev. W. A. Holmes, Helena, Ark.:*

DEAR BROTHER: Your lecture on the evening of August 9, and your sermon on the night of the same day at our Association, seem to have taken deep root in the hearts of the people, and especially with the sisters of our District to do mission work. The good seed sown by you and Bro. Morris in the work of an Association, the purpose and duty of the church, and for the woman's place and power for good in the church and home, will not soon be forgotten by us. We have already had a temporary organization of about 35 brothers and sisters. We propose to have the permanent organization and installation of officers on Saturday, December 7 inst., and the committee do very respectfully invite you to come and deliver us a sermon on that day. Pray that his blessing be upon you all. We will look for you on the "James Lee" on December 7, and we will provide for your coming and going. Let us hear from you.

Yours truly,

L. J. SIMMONS.

DUNCAN, STA., MONROE, CO., {  
December, 20, 1889. }

*Rev. W. A. Holmes:*

MY DEAR BROTHER: This leaves me and family in good health. Hope you and yours are the same.

The brothers out here are much pleased with the last report of our District Board meeting, and especially with your work as secretary and missionary. We hope that our God may spare you with much strength and bless your labors for the improvement of our churches and people. If you think it advisable, we shall be glad to have you use your influence with the brothers so as to give us a board meeting in Monroe county; in short I find that these meetings do great good.

The corner stone of new Philadelphia church will be laid on January 26th, inst., and my church extends you an invitation to deliver an address on the occasion, and in fact the people wants to hear you again. Dont fail to come, and your fare both ways will be paid. Write soon.

I am yours in the cause,

T. L. ASHE,  
Corresponding Sec'y.

HELENA, ARK., }  
March 27, '90. }

*Rev. C. H. Pettis, Marianna, Ark.:*

DEAR BROTHER: I write to inform you that owing to the great high water and overflow, hundreds of people are in distress, and as a large number of our churches are under water—fourteen of them, it becomes your duty as District Moderator to do something to help them. I advise you to call a meeting of all the brothers to meet you in an extra board meeting at Blockfort church on April 11th, and notify them to bring some money so that we can help our brothers, who are in the water. And if this meets your approval, write to me at once without fail, for now is the time to put yourself on record.

Please answer by first mail. Yours,

W. A. HOLMES.

#### RESOLUTION BY ASSOCIATION, JULY, 1882.

We your committee to whom was referred the subject of education, herewith submit the following report:

We find that there has been expended by this association since its organization in Nov. 1879, \$110.00 for the education of our young ministers, and while we feel that much good has been done in that direction, the end is not yet. We recommend that a more vigorous effort be made in the future, to raise means for the education of our young ministers, and we further recommend



the following preamble and resolutions for adoption by this body:

WHEREAS, It is the design of this association to promote ministerial education, and

WHEREAS, The home missionary society is doing so much good towards educating our young people throughout the south, and

WHEREAS, They hold out such liberal inducements to associations and conventions. Therefore

*Resolved.* 1. That we affirm our obligations to the Home Mission Society for their benevolence.

*Resolved.* 2. That we approve of the plan of co-operation proposed by the A. B. H. M. Society.

*Resolved.* 3. That we do all in our power to keep at least one young preacher in the Nashville Institute each year, and that the same be recommended to the Baptist Convention of this state.

Same date as above by Rev. Charles Williams:

WHEREAS, We are so financially oppressed that we are unable to accomplish the good desired by this body. And

WHEREAS, The churches should press more of the responsibility of this great work than they have manifested in the past. Therefore

*Resolved,* That we will teach our churches in accordance with holy writ, Cor. 9—7, to give as God has prospered them. And further

*Resolved,* That each church be requested to send at once to the secretary, the sum of \$2.00, for the purpose of paying the indebtedness of this association, and to further the cause of Christ in our district.

IN JULY, 1884.

*Resolved,* That we do renew our efforts and unite under the old temperance banner, and rally in the good cause by doing



all we can in our respective communities to prevent the sale and manufacture of intoxicating liquors, for by thus doing we will destroy one of our common enemies, and will be able to lift our people up to a higher standard of a modern Christian.

## CHAPTER VI.

### PREACHING AND DEACON'S INSTITUTE—ITS EARLY HISTORY AND PROGRESS.

MINISTERS' and Deacons' Institute.—The brothers of our district, like those of other sections, have for many years shown and manifested a love and desire for more knowledge in their work, and at no time during the last eight years has there been a gathering in the district, but what some one would speak of this all important subject, and all along, various plans have been suggested for giving the people more light through our pulpit.

The majority favored the conducting of a winter school or bible institute, and a small minority by the dictation of a would-be leader, was opposed to either. One said poverty is the stone in the way, which keeps us from going off to some college for study and preparation for the Lord's service; and still another said, the care of my little flock spiritually, and besides this my family is on another man's land.

Is there no grand, immortal sphere  
Beyond this realm of broken night,  
To fill the wants which mock us in  
Doing right? More knowledge!

The first meeting held in this District for mutual instruction among the brothers, was at New Hope Baptist Church (sometimes called Bridge Church) in November, 1882, and about 25

ministers and deacons were present. Rules of government were adopted, and Rev. J. J. Luster elected president; Rev. P. B. Brown, vice-president; Rev. W. A. Holmes, secretary, and Rev. S. Drew, treasurer. The meeting was interesting in every way. The first day's lesson included the Acts of the Apostles, and that of the second day in First and Second Trinity, and E. T. Hiscox's Baptist Church director. The second meeting was held with Mt. Olive Church, on February 2, 1883; the third with Mt. Perian Baptist Church, Lagrange, and the fourth with Pilgrim Church, on April 5, 1883, and on September 20, 1883, at Mt. City Church. These sessions were generally three and five months apart, and finally the interest in the work died down for a while, and the vice-president for our Institute aforesaid was chairman of the Committee on Resolutions at the Brinkley meeting of the State Convention in 1885, which adopted the plan for organizing and conducting Ministers' and Deacons' Institutes. In obedience to this order a call was made on September 17, 1885, in Marianna, Lee county. The brothers came together in a goodly number. A new organization was had by the election of officers as follows: Rev. H. C. Pettis, president; Deacon W. K. Jones, vice-president; Rev. W. A. Holmes, recording secretary; Rev. W. D. Huggins, corresponding secretary, and Rev. Wm. Goldsberry, treasurer. Rev. A. H. Miller conducted the devotional services, and the reading of the 78th Psalm from the first to ninth verse seems to have been in keeping with the object of the Institute. This meeting was conducted by Rev. H. Woodsmall, assisted by Revs. J. A. Booker and E. C. Morris, and as the three last named brothers had to leave Saturday morning, the following note was received:

MARIANNA, ARK., September 18, 1885,  
BRO. PETTIS—Sir: Bro. Holmes will conduct the Institute  
in my place.  
E. C. MORRIS.

On December 17, 18 and 19, 1885, a rousing Institute was held with Centennial Baptist Church in Helena, and the course of study was as follows:

BIBLE LESSON--Being and Attributes of God.

The object of the Church.

The School and the Church.

The Call, Qualifications, Licensing and Ordination of Ministers.

The Qualification, Selection and Work of Deacons.

The Qualifications and Duties of Superintendents and Sabbath School Teachers.

Province of Associations, Institutes and Conventions.

Usages of Baptists. Errors pointed out.

BIBLE LESSON--Spirit and Manner of Public Worship.

Woman's Place and Work in the Church.

Why should we have a Baptist School in Arkansas for the colored people?

Who should establish and support it?

How can we help the School?

The largest Institute, so far as numbers are concerned, was the one held with Lee's Chapel, at Marvell, Phillips county, Ark., March 3 and 4, 1886. Twenty-eight deacons were present. Besides elders and licensed preachers, four Methodist ministers and six sisters of Baptist churches participated in the meeting.

There was a good time had at the LaGrange Institute with Mt. Perian Church, on May 22, 1886, and the subject for discussion at the last two meetings were about the same as those had for the Helena session.

For a time the interest in this work was hushed, and not a zephyr of educational air went through our District until that one conducted by authority of the Association at Mt. Perian Church, during January and February, 1888. A detailed statement of the session was referred to on Page . . . ; notwithstanding, the following are a few of the announcements made and adopted on September 23, 1887:

## THE BAPTIST MINISTERS' DISTRICT INSTITUTE.

OFFICERS—Rev. H. C. Pettis, president; Rev. P. B. Brown, vice-president; Rev. W. A. Holmes, Secretary; Rev. H. Pruitt, Treasurer.

DIRECTORS—Rev. L. Robinson, Rev. S. Easley, Rev. Wm. Goldsberry, Deacon Nat Edwards, Deacon W. K. Jones.

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THE BAPTIST MINISTERS' INSTITUTE.

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DEAR BRETHREN: We are thankful for the privilege and pleasure we enjoy in announcing to you and all, that the time for the opening of our Institute is near at hand, and that arrangements have been made to conduct a special Bible course for the benefit of all elders, licensed preachers, deacons and Sabbath school teachers, during the months of January, February and March, 1888.

## THE SESSION

will commence on Monday, January 2, 1888, at Mt. Perian Baptist Church, LaGrange, Lee county, Ark. No pains have been spared to make it a success, and we give God the honor for the good results thus far. Those who will attend the Institute for three months under the very able teachers which we have engaged, will find themselves better prepared for the several duties in the church. We hope that every brother will avail himself of the very precious opportunity here presented of having a place for improving themselves in every branch of our ministerial work at your door. Therefore, if you have the will to come, then ask God and he will provide the way, for the times are demanding more and more of us every day. The brethren should not fail to make good this offer while they have the

chance, for in the near future elders, licensed preachers, deacons and Sabbath school teachers will be weighed in the scales of intelligence, and the Bible will be the balance. It will be our own fault if we are found wanting.

Respectfully,

DIRECTORS.

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## AN APPEAL TO THE SISTERS FOR HELP.

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LAGRANGE, LEE CO., ARK., Sept. 27, 1887.

*To all Sisters of Baptist Churches composing the Phillips, Lee and Monroe District:*

DEAR FRIENDS—Greeting: Surely by this time you have all heard of the Baptist Ministers' Institute recently organized by the ministers and laymen of our churches, the object of which is to conduct a special Bible course for the benefit of our elders, licensed preachers, deacons and Sabbath school teachers, during January, February and March, 1888. We are struggling hard under many disadvantages to better prepare ourselves as the Lord's ministers for the great work assigned to us.

Therefore, we, the directors, on behalf of the above Institute, do very humbly beg the sisters of each church, as helpers in the Master's cause for advancement, to give a supper or entertainment at your most convenient place, at any time during the month of November this year, and to give the amount made as a charitable contribution to the Institute.

Very truly your servants, H. C. PETTIS, President.

W. A. HOLMES, Secty.

### TUITION.

That in order to raise a sufficient amount with which to employ a competent instructor and for other incidental expenses, the following are the fees for three months, payable in advance:



## REPORT OF THE WORK OF THE

Elders.....	\$5 00
Licensed Preachers.....	3 00
Deacons.....	3 00
Sabbath School Teachers.....	3 00

## BOARD OF HONORARY SOLICITORS.

J. Wright,  
J. Harris,  
Wm. Hunter,  
H. Hoard,  
J. Smith,  
J. Turner,  
Wm. Scott,  
L. Robinson,  
D. D. Keiggler,  
J. Lotty,  
E. D. Larkins,  
S. Reed,

G. Watson,  
F. Lanfort,  
C. Hall,  
J. H. Green,  
Wm. Otey,  
C. Williams,  
P. Thomas,  
J. Turner,  
T. Scott,  
B. Brown,  
A. Fields,  
H. Davis,

W. D. Huggins.

## ANNOUNCEMENT.

HELENA, ARK., Dec. 3, 1888.

*To the Baptist Preachers, Deacons, and Sabbath School Teachers  
Throughout the Counties of Phillips, Lee and Monroe:*

DEAR BROTHERS—Greeting: The Second Annual Session of the Ministers' and Deacons' Bible Institute, for mutual advancement will commence on Tuesday morning January 1, 1889 at Blackfoot Baptist church.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

1. MONDAY NIGHT—Ministers Literary Society. At this meeting all sermons and other topics used by the brethren in their several churches on Sunday, will be presented for criticism.

2. WEDNESDAY NIGHT.—Preaching.

3. There will be a lecture on each Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

4. The Institute will convene at 9 o'clock a. m., each day. Recess from 12 m., to 1 o'clock p. m., and will close at 4:30 p. m.

For further information address

W. A. HOLMES, Helena, Ark.

At several of these Institute meetings in our District, a small collection was asked for for mailing of notices and stationery.

At the two conducted by Rev. H. Woodsmall, as much as \$4.50 was taken up for the A. B. H. Mission Society.

Some brothers were opposed to them, because, they said, we ought to go to our school in Little Rock. We notice however that they did not go themselves. The number of brothers who have attended the meetings in our District is estimated at between 200 and 300. These Institutes have proven to be a great blessing to the brothers. Furthermore the following explanatory circular which sought to wage war against the Institute as established by the Association in July 1887, gave it strength and brought it into prominence before the people, the object sought by this circular fell to the ground, and the prodigal son has returned.

#### EXPLANATION.

*To the Officers and Members of Regular Missionary Baptist Churches Composing the Phillips, Lee and Monroe County Association :*

The impresssion has got out since our meeting at Antioch that I had severed my connection with the work of the Baptists in Arkansas. I hereby emphatically state that such is not the case, but am as anxious to-day about the prosperity of our church as ever I was in my life. It is true that I withdrew from the Association—not for the purpose of lying idle—but because the Association became intolerable in its actions. Secret clans were organized in the Association for the purpose of carrying out certain plans, and brethren whose intentions were pure and honorable, were kidnapped and led blindly into the conspiracy under the pretence of “HOME INSTITUTIONS.” Resolutions

were presented to the Association, asking them to accept the organization perfected for the purpose of conducting a school at LaGrange, and threatening them in case they did not endorse it, *i. e.* It was stated by the gentlemen representing the institution that it was their intention to see that the money raised from country churches be used for the benefit of country preachers, and one young divine said that "if preachers were sent to Little Rock from the country, that it would unfit them for work in the country, and that he wanted a country school for country preachers." It was also stated that ministers in towns and cities did not respect ministers in the country, and that now is the time to draw a line between them. These things I knew to be false, and as soon as I found that such a spirit was in the hearts of men whom I had taken to be my brethren, I took my hat and walked out, and will never return while those sentiments are the ruling spirit in that body. And it is justice to others for me to say that half of the churches in the District, through their delegates, have said that they will never return to the Association while a line is drawn to separate Christians. The plan which God has laid for Christian work is as broad as [the world. The man (Paul) who was educated in Tarsus and Jerusalem did as much (if not more) effectual work in the country, on the seas in the towns and in the cities as any other of the apostles, no matter where they were trained. Hence, in future, we shall give our entire time to the work of the Convention, which knows no North, no South, no East, no West, no city, no country, but wherever persons are found professing the name of Jesus, and have adopted the Bible as a rule for their faith and practice, the same is acceptable with them.

Very truly yours, for the upbuilding of the Baptist cause,  
 Helena, Ark., August 3, 1887. E. C. MORRIS.

Among the many letters received from the brethren just after the above circular went forth, we have space for only two of them.

SPRING CREEK, LEE Co., ARK.)  
 Oct. 12, 1887. }

*Rev. W. A. Holmes, District Secretary:*

DEAR BROTHER:—We are doing all we can for the Institute.

Several from this section will come. Don't be discouraged from what may be said by the circular sent through the country, or anything else. We are with you in this work and it is the best thing ever done in our midst to have an Institute for our advancement. You have given us more light and done more good in two years than all the old laborers ever did.

Enclosed find \$1.75, get out your circulars as soon as you can. Respectfully yours, \_\_\_\_\_ D. D. KEIGGLER.

PARK PLACE, LEE CO., ARK. }  
Nov. 27, 1887, }

*Rev. W. A. Holmes:*

DEAR SIR AND BROTHER:—Yours of the 14th inst. at hand and contents fully noticed. I was glad to hear from you. I am sorry that I was unable to meet with you and other brothers on the 25th inst. I was sick at the time.

We hope that you will not leave one stone unturned in your efforts to make the Institute a success. We need it very much, and you are fully competent to do us great good. Your love for the cause of Christ and your untiring efforts to raise up and improve the ministry in our District, has endeared you to the brethren of the Association. Depend on me for my part of the work. I have arranged for a supper in my church for the benefit of our Institute.

Hope to hear from you often, and don't give me out till all have failed.

Yours for the cause of improvement in this District,

\_\_\_\_\_  
W. D. HUGGINS.

HELENA, ARK., Oct. 28, 1887.

Received of W. A. Holmes \$14 00 on printing announcements of the Baptist Ministers' Institute.

HIGGINS & McVEY.

## REPORT OF THE WORK OF THE

LAGRANGE, LEE Co., ARK., Dec. 19, 1887.

Received of W. A. Holmes, secretary of the preachers' and Deacons' Institute, the sum of \$28 00.

JOSEPH JOHNSON,  
Acting Treasurer.

LAGRANGE, LEE Co., ARK., April 6. 1883.

Received of W. A. Holmes the sum of two dollars and fifty cents, to be sent to the *Arkansas Times* for the Preachers and Deacons' Institute.

B. BROWN.

The following will give some idea of the early Institute :

HELENA, ARK., March 20, 1883.

*Editor Arkansas Times:*

DEAR SIR: We are proud to see that the present times demand more and more intelligence daily, for as the light of moral civilization develops itself, and the rays of that glorious sun of liberty throws its arm of protection around us and dispels from our midst the darkness of the past, and which leaves us comparatively naked for the want of practice and experience to suit the times, we appreciate the blessing, and bow ourselves in humble submission, believing, as we do, that our future prosperity depends upon our knowledge of and obedience to the laws of GOD.

Moses tells us that "As our days, so shall our strength be." We seek, therefore, to make our days acceptable in the presence of our Lord, that in the fulfillment of this promise we may be a blessed people. Therefore, working, waiting and looking for the time when we shall be strong morally and intellectually, we take hold of the opportunity, and our aim is to build up our characters and our lives by the models which are set before us. We are looking up to higher, brighter and better times, and for the furtherance of which great cause a few faithful workers in the



Master's vineyard not long since organized themselves into an association known as the Preachers' and Deacons' Institute, comprising the Counties of Phillips and Lee, upon a strictly Missionary Baptist principle, and they declare that the time is come, and that as servants we must strive to give more light to the pulpit and refinement to the ministry. One of the objects of this Institute is to test the ability of both preachers and deacons for carrying out the mission of the Church, and to exchange views on all matters pertaining to the upbuilding of the kingdom of Christ. The order of business for the next meeting, which will convene on Friday before the second Sabbath in April next, with Pilgrim Baptist Church, Lee county, Rev. B. Brown, pastor, is as follows:

## FIRST DAY.

1. On the Calling of Preachers.
2. On the Duty of Preachers and Deacons.
3. On their Relation.
4. On Church Government.

## SECOND DAY.

1. On the Laws of Christ.
2. On Church Ordinance.
3. On Deaconship.
4. On Church Building.

## THIRD DAY.

1. On Sabbath School Work.
2. On Foreign Mission Work.
3. On Ancient and Modern History.

This moveable Institute of learning changes its subjects from time to time. The Institute will hold itself subordinate to the State Convention, and will aim, by the aid of said convention, to organize similar institutions over the whole State. And, by



order of the Institute, we have pleasure in extending a cordial invitation to all preachers and deacons in good standing with their church, to attend the next meeting at the above time and place.

W. A. HOLMES, Secretary.

## CHAPTER VII.

### THE DISTRICT'S AFRICAN MISSION WORK.

THE Foreign Missionary cause in our District.—It may be said right here that it is doubtful if any other Association or State Convention in Arkansas among colored Baptists can show any record of an earlier date for raising monies for the African mission work, than that of the Phillips, Lee and Monroe County District Association. For on receipt of a letter from the old Baptist Church of Richmond, Virginia, to Rev. Charles Williams, in June, 1878, he collected from three or four churches in our District, for the African work, the sum of \$3 75. The next time any money was raised in our District was at a Board meeting at Sequell Baptist Church, on November 15, 1883, \$1 50, and the first two at this meeting who gave were Mrs. Amanda Bailey and Mrs. Ann Bailey. The records on file in our District also show that at Mt. Perian Baptist Church, in LaGrange, Lee county, Ark., the sum of \$4.50 was collected, and the ladies even here did not forget to lend a helping hand to send the gospel to the dark continent of Africa.

MISS ROSA CLAYTON,  
MRS. LOUISA HOLMES.

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The following letter will speak for itself:

LYNCHBURG, VA., June 12, 1884.

*Rev. W. A. Holmes, Marianno, Ark:*

DEAR BROTHER: Yours of the 31st of May came to hand

in due time. Glad to see the interest the friends of African missions evince in the cause which is so dear to us all. Herein please find a receipt for the \$4 50 which the brothers of your District send me for the Foreign Mission Board. Tell the friends of the cause that the Board accepts the money sent, and prays the blessing of GOD upon those who thus cheerfully give. And, sir, hoping that the Head of the church will bless you in every good work, I subscribe myself, Yours fraternally,

J. E. JONES.

This is only one of the many letters of this kind which we have received during many years, and while we were first in the State we find also that we are not the last in giving; notwithstanding, we are not boasting at all, for we could and ought to have done more. Yet we find that the little sum of \$84 15 given for work in Africa by our churches is just one-sixth of all the money raised in the whole State for this work, that is by Association or Convention.

However, it must not be forgotten that the adoption of the resolution at the July session in 1886, classifying the monies and creating an African mission fund by setting aside 25 cents out of every \$3 00 sent to the Association by our churches, is what gives life to the cause of missions in the district, and while it is true, that through our missionary and executive board, a few dollars or so was taken up and sent away for the work, during 1879 to 1886, it was not till July 29, 1886, that the association as a body took any action in the work.

Africa the land of our forefathers,  
From which their sons were brought  
By their brothers, though long ago,  
Still Africa is dear to us.

The little mites we send, will help to  
Give the word of light and life, and  
Will build the bridge, make plain the road,  
For to Africa their sons must go.

Let us send more for schools  
And churches, to educate our brothers,  
In time to come, it will repay  
Our sons and make them brothers

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The Association at its regular annual meeting July 27, 1889 appointed a messenger to represent it, for the first time in its history at the Baptist Foreign Mission Convention in Indianapolis, Ind., and for which the sum of \$20.00 was appropriated for rail road fare.

The following is the credential :

HELENA, ARK., August 12, '89.

*To the President and members of the Baptist Foreign Mission Convention of the U. S. A.; in session at Indianapolis, Ind.:*

DEAR BRETHREN: The Phillips, Lee and Monroe County District Association of East Arkansas sends its Christian greeting, and prays that the blessings of the God of our fathers may ever attend you in your mission work to bring our brothers on the continent of Africa to the fold of Christ.

This certifies that Rev. W. A. Holmes is duly appointed a messenger to represent our Association in your Tenth Annual Session, and that we contribute the sum of \$28.25 for Foreign Mission work. Very respectfully,

H. C. PETTIS, Moderator.  
T. L. ASHE, Cor.-Sec'y.

## CHAPTER VIII

### BAPTIST WOMEN'S CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETIES AND COUNTY ASSOCIATIONS.

FOR several years there has been much talk among the brothers of our Association about missionary societies, or whether it was expedient to train and put the women to work in our churches. Some said that the sisters would get beside themselves, and want to rule the men, and others said that it would take away too much money from the churches, and still there were others who said they were willing, so long as the officers of these societies were men, and these differences of opinions in our ranks was the stumbling block in the way, which prevented the adoption of a plan (by the Association in 1887) to organize societies in our churches.

The first Missionary society in the District, so far as individual churches are concerned was the one organized in the Centennial Baptist church in 1883, and in the First St. Paul church one was instituted in 1884.

Paradise church at Marianna and Union Liberty church at Park Place, also that similar societies in 1886. But these societies did not stretch out their hands to help the cause of Christ any further than the bounds of their own churches, and cannot really be called missionary societies.

There was a reorganization of the society in the Centennial church in February 1888, and it may rightly be called the first



regular Woman's Baptist Missionary Society in our district.  
Auxiliary to the Woman's Baptist State Association,

In Nov. 1889, a resolution was adopted to encourage the organization of these societies in the churches of each county.

(See chapter on anniversary report.)

We also had the pleasure to organize one in Peter's Chapel, Lee county, on Dec. 7, 1889, and whatever may be said either for or against this movement among the sisters of our churches, it is a truth undeniable, that these societies are doing more to-day for the raising of moneys for the building of our college, and the training and education of our ministry, than was supposed by some.

Who will help them to roll away,  
The stone of ignorance from the  
Door of our churches, Let us answer  
Quick and act at once.

What means they raise for our  
African missions is their way of  
Preaching to their sisters. Who will  
Carry it over for them, will you?

A County Association of sisters was organized at Blockfort Baptist church, April 12th, 1890, and five churches were represented. Elders C. F. Fencher, Wm. Goldsberry and W. A. Holmes, were present and conducted the meeting.

150 circular letters were printed and sent to the churches in Phillips county, the next meeting was held with Mount Olive church on Saturday, May 3, 1890, to further the good work just began, to give stability to the organizations, to better understand each other and the course to be pursued, their collection at the first gathering was about \$2.00

The following were the sister delegates and officers:

Sister Bettie Mitchell, President.

Sister Maria Hasting, Vice-President.

Sister Rachel Young, Treasurer.

Sister Ella Allin, Secretary.

Sister Mittie Watson,

Sister Alice Burks,

Sister Carrie Brown,

Sister Lydia Johnson.

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## CIRCULAR LETTER.

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CLIFTON STATION, ARK. }  
May 10, 1880. }

*To the Sisters of the Baptist Churches of Lee County :*

GREETINGS:—In answer to the call of the Executive Board of the Phillips, Lee and Monroe County District Association in their regular meeting of February 8th, 1890, to the churches of Lee County for the organization of a Women's Baptist Missionary Association in the county and in each church, auxiliary to the Women's State Association. The object being to foster those grand principles among the Baptists of this community, which tend to the higher elevation and ennoblement of the women in our churches and homes; and in Christian charity by the raising of monies in each church's Missionary Society to be divided and used as follows :

1. One-fourth for Arkansas Baptist College.
2. One-fourth for the African Mission Work.
3. One-fourth for District Missions.
4. One-fourth to be retained by each Society in the church for its own expenses.

And further each church's Missionary Society shall collect and send annually to the County Association of sisters a report

showing the number of children (boys and girls) belonging to the families of the members of their churches, of the number attending Sabbath School, and the number attending public school, and the number of families in the church, with or without Bibles in their homes; and whether or not the church has a literary society or singing school for its young people.

On Saturday May 10th, 1890, a large crowd of sisters and brothers came together at Bethlehem Baptist church. And at 10:30 o'clock a. m., the meeting was called to order by Rev. D. D. Keigler and after religious services, Rev. W. A. Holmes, District Missionary, stated the object of the meeting the duty and work to be performed by the sisters of our church in the furtherance of our Educational, African and District Mission work. Addresses were also delivered by Rev.'s H. C. Pettis, P. B. Brown, Deacons Nat Edwards, D. Graham and others.

On the report of the Committee it was found that eleven churches represented by twenty-two sisters were entitled to seats; and by unanimous consent organization for Lee County was effected.

Walnut Grove.....	Luella Otey, President.
Walnut Grove.....	Nannie Powell
Mount City.....	Lizzie Smith, Vice-President.
“ .....	Urna Allen.
Belmount.....	Maggie Thomas, Rec. Secretary.
“ .....	Sister—————
Paradise No. 1.....	Caroline Pope, Treasurer.
“ “ .....	Mariah McCoy
Bethlehem....	Mariah Shepherd and Lizzie Gilmore
Pilgrim.....	Cornelia Edwards, Cor. Secretary
“ .....	Maggie Farror.
Paradise No. 3.....	Sisters—————

St. John.....Nannie Arnett and Mollie Green.  
Shiloh.....Anna A. Mitchell and Sister Venerable.  
Hempshire.....Lilla Johnson and Maggie Owens  
Mount Sinia.....Anna Pertman and Eliza Hayes  
Rev. George Arnett, Chaplain.

The sisters in each church in Lee County are respectfully requested to organize a Women's Missionary Society in the church, by the election of officers as above. The members of your society may include the members of your church, both male and female, of large and small; only let the officers be from among the sisters. And each society may adopt such rules for its government as seem best, but not however, to conflict with the object and purpose of the County Association afore-said.

Two sisters were appointed to represent the Lee County Association in the Women's State Association, which meets in Helena on May 22nd, 1890.

The many friends, who attended the meeting expressed their delight in the commencement made by the sisters of our churches by giving a contribution of \$7.20, for the work: and last but not least, the many thanks of our sisters were tendered to Rev. W. A. Holmes who seems to never tire in his labors for Christ and his efforts for the elevation of his people.

In sending forth this circular, we ask for the hearty co-operation of all sisters and brothers in our churches in Lee county, who love the Lord Jesus and who feel that that our denominational, educational, and missionary work is of paramount importance to us not only as Christians but as citizens.

Call your members together and organize. Collect all the

money you can and send it to the association of brethern which meets in Marianna on July 24th inst.

Respectfully,

LUELLA OTEY, President.

Marianna, Lee County.

MAGGIE THOMAS, Secretary.

Lexa, Phillips County.

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Among the leading women in the missionary cause in Lee county, and one who seems to be devoted to the work of solving the Negro problem by doing what she can for our educational and African mission, is Mrs. Lizzie Smith, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Maria Miles. She was born in Scott county, Ky., on February 3, 1864. At seven years old she was sent to the common schools of her State, and later to the Female Seminary at Frankfort, Ky., and, having learned very rapidly, at seventeen years of age she determined to spend her time in the elevation of her people, and she chose the profession of teaching. She was converted to the religion of Christ and baptized in 1876. This lady was married and came to Arkansas some years ago and has taught school nearly ever since. Sister Smith was elected first vice-president of the Woman's Association of Lee county in May, 1890, and on accepting that position, in her address she said :

SISTER PRESIDENT : I have never before been elected to a position which I prize higher than that of being called to share the burdens of my people in their struggle for more education and Christian usefulness, in order that our children, in time to come, might be able to cope with other civilized races in all which tends to the glory of GOD and the happiness of His people. This privilege is dear to me from the memory of my father, who 26 years ago, as a volunteer in the United States navy, and while



at his post of duty in his struggle to give freedom to his children and people, he perished and was buried beneath the surging waves in the Gulf of Mexico. I am delighted at the principle set forth in the call of the brothers of our District for the organization of this Missionary Society,, and I know I speak the sentiment of the sisters of this meeting when I say we are ready to respond. I think it is a grand, good and noble work. Our women of this land have begun to take a greater interest in it. What is dearer to woman than her child? And how few of us have heretofore made any preparation for their future. We, as a body of Christian women, should begin to look around us, for it is an undisputable fact that just as we sow, just so we shall reap. Then it behooves us that we sow aright by giving some of our time and earthly store to the cause of education and African mission, if we have to deny ourselves of some of the fading fancies with which we adorn ourselves. I believe the mission cause is rising like a bright star, and may it never set, but shine on brighter and more glorious, until it shall have lit up our schools and prepared our boys and girls, whom we shall send forth, to light up the continent of Africa with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Our missionaries who have responded to Africa's call need our aid. Shall they be refused? No! we cannot, for it is the land of our father's father—and GOD speed the day.

Since the above address was delivered Sister Smith has been appointed by the Woman's State Association as the woman missionary for Lee county.

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In Monroe county, on May 31, 1890, at St. Luke Baptist Church, the Woman's Baptist Missionary Association for that county was organized, and the following named sisters were elected for the first officers:

Francis Taylor, of Travelers Rest Church, president.

Lucinda Nunnally, of Baptist Grove Church, vice-president.

Leanna Sanders, of St. Luke Church, Recording Secretary.

Minnie A. Minefer, of Bethlehem Church, corresponding Secretary.

Callie Mancil, of Bethlehem Church, treasurer.

Rev. G. W. Lowe, of St. Luke Church, chaplain.

Rev. Charles Williams, ex-District missionary, was present, and took an active part in its formation.

## CHAPTER IX.

SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF THE LIVES OF SOME OF THE  
WORKERS IN THE UNION OF THE THREE COUNTIES  
OF THE ASSOCIATION.

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REV. DAVID D. KEIGGLER.

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REV. WILLIS ANTHONY HOLMES, the Secretary and Missionary of our Association, also the author of the "History of the Phillips, Lee and Monroe Association," is the great grandson of King Homoa, of West Africa, whose tribe in an encounter with a French invasion in 1772, lost some of his subjects by capture, among whom was his son and prince, Randle Holmes (so called by his captors), who was born in his fatherland in 1753, and as a captor of war, in defence of his liberty, was brought on board of a ship by some French traders and sold in Virginia in 1773. The grandfather and mother of our secretary, Randle and Rosa, were married in 1795. They were slaves in King George county, Va. To them were born three children as follows: George, 1796; Anthony, 1797, and Alsey, in 1798. Anthony Holmes, the father of our missionary, was brought down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers on a flat boat and sold in Plaquemine, Iberville Parish, Louisiana, in September 1811, and he married Susan Butter, who also came down in the same boat, in 1824. They had nine children, and Willis A., their son, the

subject of this sketch, was born in Plaquemine, La., on the 24th day of March, 1847. He was carried to Natchez, Miss., in 1853, or just 100 years after the birth of his grandfather. From 1862 to 1865 he was a servant boy in the army, and spent 1866 with his parents in Louisiana. From 1867 to 1872 he was a confectioneer and baker on several steamboats on the Mississippi river, while in 1873 to 1876 he was occupied in the carpenter's shop with his father. In 1875 was elected secretary of a burial association, and in 1876 was made president of a literary and dramatic society, and during this same year he was appointed by the governor of his state as inspector of weights and measures for his Parish, and in this he was engaged two years. During 1878 he was in the service of the United States Government in the weighers department of the custom-house in New Orleans, and in 1879 he received a second grade certificate as a school teacher. He was converted to Christ and baptized on the first Sunday in June, 1879, and he landed at Helena, Ark., on February 28, 1881, and was engaged in the painter's trade the following four years. The Centennial Baptist Church, of which he is a member, licensed him to preach on February 9, 1882. In August, 1882, he was elected corresponding secretary of the Baptist State Convention. In November, 1882, he was elected recording secretary of the Preacher's and Deacon's Institute, and at the Association in July, '83, was made corresponding secretary of that body. In July, '84, the Association elected him as its recording secretary, and was re-elected to this position in 1886, '87, '88 and '89. He was appointed District missionary on April 27, 1888, and re-appointed in July, 1889, and, by request of the Sabbath School Convention, he accepted the position of District superintendent of schools in July, 1888. He has represented his District in other Associations, and has been appointed as delegate both to the State and foreign mission conventions. This

brother organized the Macedonia Baptist church of Helena, and his church (the Centennial) ordained him to its pastorate in August 29, 1886; was chosen secretary in September 1887 and made instructor of the Ministers and Deacons District Institute in January 1888. He was the first prime mover and organizer of the Women's Baptist Missionary Societies of our churches into County Associations, and our brother is the author of those three resolutions which, among other things has done so much towards giving light and life to the work, namely, for the examination and ordination of preachers, the classification of the Association-al monies into five regular funds and the establishment of our church extension fund. In his double position as Secretary and Missionary he has for several years attended to nearly all the important business of the Association, and is said to have accomplished more by his earnest labors towards making this District what it is to-day than any other one. He was at one time associate editor of the *Arkansas Review*, and has filled several other secular positions. And what is still more wonderful about his mind power and love for letters, our Secretary has never gone to a school of any kind a day in his life, nor never received a lesson of any kind from any person. He has bought his books and by years of hard study and push has made himself what he is to-day, and he can justly be called a self-made man.

SPRING CREEK, LEE CO., ARK., March 17, 1890.

This short brief sketch of the works of the aged and venerable Elder is not a history of his life, but simply a few lines in token of respect for his manly worth. and many virtues.

For in 1882 when by the grace of God, I gave myself to the work of the gospel ministry, he was the one who took me by the hand and led me and instructed me in the study of the bible, in the selection and delivery of sermons, the preachings of the



gospel, and he has spared no time or labor in trying to make me a workman in the masters cause, and however little good my eight years service as secretary and missionary have been to the churches, yet I desired for him and others to know, that I give the glory to God, and my humble thanks, with much praise for what I have accomplished.

.....

Rev. CHAS. WILLIAMS, who was born in Hartilock county, Southwest Virginia, June 12, 1815. He was sold several times in Virginia, and finally carried to Port Gibson, Miss., where he stayed several years, and in 1863, he went to New Albany, Indiana, here he joined the First Baptist church, and in 1864 the church licensed him to preach, in this church he greatly improved, and in 1868 his church ordained him to the work of the gospel ministry, and soon afterwards he accepted a call as pastor of the First Baptist church of Portland, Kentucky.

During the following two years, he organized (3) three Baptist churches, and did much work for the Lord and the elevation of his people.

He came to Helena, Ark., in 1870, and shortly after was appointed a ssistant state missionary. He has been pastor of (5) five churches in Arkansas, he was the leader in calling the churches together to organize what was first known as the Phillips and Lee Association in 1879, and he was elected its first moderator, and he served as district missionary from July 1882 to July 1889. During this time he organized some (17) seventeen Baptist churches, ordained (15) fifteen elders, baptized several hundred converts, traveled many thousands of miles, and preached and lectured over the six counties of our district, and on November 10th 1879 at Pilgrim Baptist church, he among many others was the prime mover in the adoption of our

constitution and the changing of its name to the Phillips, Lee and Monroe District Association, and he has ever since been one of its main leaders and supporters, his counsel and advice was eagerly sought for in all matters pertaining to Associational and church work in the district, and in speaking of one having a knowledge of the bible and especially of the new testament, the mission of the church, its organization, its spiritual work and in deciding matters of dispute between parties in general church work. He was and is until this day, the best in our whole district.

He is now 76 years old, and for  
20 years the brightness of his  
Wisdom and counsel, has been the  
Shining lamp in the path of many brothers.

He has turned many to righteousness,  
They honor him, and he is only waiting,  
Till the shadow of a well spent life, are  
A little longer grown.

And when the reapers have the last  
Sheep gathered home, then and there,  
We hope to be a star in his glittering  
Crown of righteousness.

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Rev. E. C. MORRIS was born in Murray County, Georgia, May 7th, 1855, and moved to Dalton in 1863. When the first breath of freedom was drawn from Dalton he went to Chattanooga, Tenn., where he attended public school for the first time in the fall of 1865, he moved to Stevenson, Jackson County, Ala., and at this place he received a common school education, about November 1868, he was bound out as an apprentice at the shoe trade, in the summer of 1873, he went to see what virtue there was in railroading on the Northwestern Line. Being born a slave and having lately tasted the sweet bread of freedom, he decided to return to his trade, where he would have a better chance to develop whatever genius there was in him. He was converted

to the Christian faith and joined the Morning Star Baptist Church, of Stevenson, Ala. In September 1874, he claimed to have been called of GOD to the work of the gospel ministry, With reluctance, however, he finally consented to enter the high and responsible life work. His church licensed him to preach in September 1875. His first effort to establish a church was in Scottsborough, Ala., in 1877, but before its completion he came to Helena, Ark., on March 7th, 1877. He became an honorary member of the First Missionary Baptist District Association, in May, 1877, and in May, 1878, was elected Secretary of that body, and in this same year he connected himself with the membership of the Centennial Baptist church. Owing to the feeling existing at that time between the Centennial and Second Baptist church, he withdrew from the Association in July 1879. His church called him to its pastorate, and on the 20th day of July of the same year, the following named council ordained him to the work of the gospel ministry :

Rev's. Simon W. Lott, E. D. Sams and A. H. Miller.

He with others of his brethren organized the Phillips, Lee and Monroe County District Association in 1879, was elected the first Secretary of that body, and held this office three years. He has come up with the Association from its infancy of seventeen churches, through all its besetments on the way to the present day with its seventy-two churches. In August 1880 he represented his church in the State Convention at Pine Bluff, he was elected Secretary and served in that position for two years. At Marianna in 1882, the brothers called him to the Presidency of the Convention, and to which position he has been re-elected every year since. He served six months as State Missionary.

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Of Rev. C. F. FENCHER it may be justly said, that as vice-

moderator of our association, he has taken more real interest in every department of the work, than any of his predecessors, he is a man of excellent qualities in his domestic life, and of good sound judgment in business matters. He was licensed to preach in 1876, and after four years steady work and improvement in his calling, he was ordained to the ministry on March 19, 1880, he has been pastor of five churches and is to-day presiding over the largest membership in the district.

By your examples, many souls  
In the darkness of sins, have had light,  
To tread their pathway on to the enjoyment  
Of the Christian religion.

He was first elected vice-moderator in 1887, and has been re-elected every year since that time, and no member in the association is held in any higher esteem than he is, hard struggles have given him the title, and honor he so justly deserves, a self made man.

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Rev. A. FIELDS was born in Sumter county, Ala., in 1856, went to school in Meridian, Miss., came to Arkansas in 1872, was converted, baptized and joined the church in 1874, licensed to preach in 1876, was ordained to the work of the ministry in 1878; member of the association in 1883, he was two years as missionary, has been pastor of several churches and has done good work in our district.

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Rev. WM. BLAKELY is a steady worker in the church, and of good judgment. He felt himself called to the service of the Master shortly after the war of '65. He was licensed to preach in February 1868, in this he was not slow in showing himself approved of GOD. His call by his church to a council to be ordained for the ministry was in 1872. He formerly belonged to what was known as the First District Association. This brother be-

came a member of the Phillips, Lee and Monroe County District Association in July 1889, and he has been pastor of four (4) churches for the last fourteen (14) years, and is held in high esteem by the people of this community.

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Rev. ISRAEL BURRELL, the oldest preacher in our District, or in the State, was born in 1803, in Hanover County, Va. Was converted to the Christian religion in 1825. Feeling called to labor for the Master, he was appointed to conduct prayer meetings and authorized to preach in 1840 and after suffering much for the word of GOD, he came to Arkansas in 1861 and was ordained by the Second Baptist church, of Helena in 1868. He has organized many churches in this country and ordained twenty or more to the Eldership. Was a member of the First State Convention of Colored Baptists in Arkansas. He was a member of the First Missionary Baptist Association and served two years as its Moderator. He is loved by all.

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Deacon NAT EDWARDS, of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Lee county, may rightly be called the great peace-maker of our District. He was born in Tennessee on March 4, 1833, His spiritual change, baptism and admission into the church was in June, 1870.

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Rev. D. D. KEIGGLER was born in Houston county, Ga., December 14, 1852, and when quite young he attended free school for nearly two years in his native State. He came to Arkansas and settled in Argenta in 1872, and on December 12, 1874, he went to Wilson Point, in Carroll Parish, La. Here he resided as a farmer, and in the year 1880 he returned to Arkansas and found a home in Spring Creek, Lee county. On August 20, 1882, he was converted to GOD and was baptised by Rev.



Louis Robenson, and this brother has been superintendent of the Antioch Church Sabbath school from 1883 to the present time (1890). His church licensed him to preach in 1884, and some knowledge of his popularity among the people may be learned from the fact that he has been public school director for six years, and was elected president of the District Sabbath School Convention in July, 1888, and re-elected in 1889. By recommendation from Antioch he was examined by our Board, and on March 16, 1890, his church ordained him to the ministry. He is the author of several important resolutions in another chapter of this book, and seems to be studying hard to prepare himself for the great work before him. May our GOD bless thee, David.

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Rev. P. B. BROWN was born in Lawrence county, Miss., on the 1st day of September, 1845, and was brought to Arkansas as a slave in 1858. He was converted to the religion of Jesus Christ in 1863. His zeal for the work attracted the attention of his church, which licensed him to preach in 1865. He was not long in proving himself a workman in the Master's cause, and was therefore ordained to the service of the gospel ministry by his church in 1868, and has been one of the strong supporters of the Association for many years. During twenty-two years he has been pastor of eight churches, and it is generally conceded that he has baptised more candidates than any other preacher of our District.

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Deacon J. H. GREEN, of St. Johh Church, is one among many who has long ago convinced the brothers of his love for the cause by his works. He is a native of Tennessee and was born in 1852, came to Arkansas in 1863, was converted and baptised in 1870, and, after a trial of several years his church or-



dained him to the deaconship in 1876. He has not flinched from the work at all since the beginning, and, as a representative of his church in the Association and on the Board, his counsel has caused him to be heard among the brethren. He has handled more of the Association's money than any other of its members.

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Among the young and progressive ministers of our District who seem to be anxious to labor for the Master, is the Rev. E. L. LATHAN, pastor of Belmont Baptist church. He was born February 1, 1856; baptised in 1879, and was ordained a deacon in 1882. His church licensed him to preach in 1886, and when the church was without a shepherd he was called, and, after an examination by the Executive Board, was ordained to the work by Belmont Baptist Church on Sunday the 2nd day of March 1890. In July, 1888, he was elected vice-president of the District Sabbath School Convention.

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Rev. WM. OTEY, who has been pastor of several churches in Lee county, was born in Lee county in 1860. He received license to preach in 1881, and was ordained in February, 1884. He is a lover of and takes an active part in all the work of the Association.

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Rev. WM. GOLDSBERRY, for four years the worthy treasurer of our Association, was born in Monroe county, Ark., on December 18, 1850, and was converted and baptised in 1875. He was licensed to preach in 1878, and the St. Paul Baptist church, of which he was a member, ordained him to the work of the ministry in 1881 and called him as its pastor. He was the first of our brothers outside of our cities and towns to commence preaching in his church every Sunday

Rev. WALTER DEXTER HUGGINS, the young and energetic pastor of Union Liberty Baptist Church, at Park Place, Lee county, is the willing worker of our District. He was born in Rutherford county, Tenn., on the 24th day of April, 1853, and came to the State of Arkansas in 1872. He was converted to the religion of Christ and baptised in 1875. The Union Church, after being satisfied of his call to the work, licensed him to preach in 1877, and for three years he showed himself to be useful, willing, ready and apt to teach, both in the Sabbath School, prayer meeting, and in the pulpit. His church ordained him to the eldership in 1880. This brother has been an active member of the Association for several years. He was elected corresponding secretary of the Preachers' and Deacons' Institute in December, 1886, and re-elected in September, 1887.

Be thou exalted to the skies, and  
From thy labor, wear a starry crown.

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Rev. HENRY C. PETTIS was born in Wilkes county, Ga., near Washington, on the 12th day of February, 1856, and came to Arkansas in January, 1866. He was converted and baptised in September, 1874. His church licensed him to preach in January, 1876, and he was ordained in March, 1879. This brother accepted a call as pastor of the New Hope Baptist Church in June, 1879. He has been pastor of several churches. The Association elected him as its treasurer in July, 1883, and was honored by the position of president of the Preachers' and Deacons' Institute in December, 1886, and again in September, 1887. He was elected moderator of the Association in July, 1887, and was re-elected in 1888 and 1889.

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Rev. JACKSON TURNER, the first treasurer of our Association, was born in the State of Alabama on December 6, 1852.

and at an early age moved to Arkansas in 1861, During the revival in 1870 he acknowledged the religion of Christ, and the church baptised him the same year. He was licensed to preach in 1872, and ordained to the work of the ministry in 1874.

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Rev. N. L. NORRIS, of Poplar Grove, the young self-made preacher and subject of this sketch, was born in Phillips county, Ark., on August 20, 1851, and being raised by a pious family he was led to seek the Lord, was converted, baptized, and joined the Star of Bethlehem Church on the first Sabbath in February 1876. This brother was chosen as a deacon and served his church in that office for nine years. In 1887 he received from his church license to preach, and in this capacity his gentlemanly manner and good character soon brought him into public notice and usefulness. He was ordained to the work of the ministry by his church and chosen as its pastor April 21, 1889.

Be thou of good cheer,  
For over every obstacle,  
Whether on a mountain or in a valley,  
For thy worth,  
The memory of thee shall live  
By night and day.

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In the southwestern part of our District, among the lonely pines of Monroe county, may be found our busy and energetic young scribe, the Rev. THOMAS L. ASHE. This brother was born in the State of Tennessee, Haywood county, March 15, 1860. When quite young he attended the public schools about three months. Being brought up in the Sabbath school his heart was naturally inclined to fear GOD, and during a revival he was converted, and baptised on July 23, 1879. He came to Arkansas on January 22, 1887. St. Luke Church licensed him to preach the word of GOD on June 12, 1887. His usefulness and popu-

larity brought him to the notice of Philadelphia Baptist Church, who called him as her pastor, and upon their request his mother church (St. Luke) ordained him to the work of the ministry on April 28, 1888. As a representative of Monroe county he was elected corresponding secretary of our Association in July, 1889.

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Rev. WM. JARRETT, of the Coffee Creek Settlement, was born in the Chester District, State of South Carolina, November 1, 1852. His father brought him to Arkansas in March, 1867. During the following three years he attended the free schools, where he acquired some knowledge of books. He bore the name of being a hard-working and industrious young man. Being early led to seek the Lord, he was converted to the religion of Christ and baptised on August 28, 1880. The church of which he was a member licensed him to preach the gospel about May 15, 1882. He seems to have very early acquired a fervent love for the external work of the church. This brother joined the State Convention in August, 1882, and he became a member of the Phillips, Lee and Monroe County District Association in July, 1883. He received a letter and accepted the call as pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, and to which charge he was ordained on May 21, 1884.

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The late Rev. P. T. PRICE, of Haynes Station, who died on April 23, 1890, was for many years a useful and influential member of our Association. He was born in Limestone county, Ala., in 1845, and was brought to Arkansas as a slave boy in 1855, and he embraced a hope in Christ and was baptised in 1869. His call to the service of GOD was seen by his brothers before he knew it himself. His church licensed him to preach in 1870. He improved rapidly, worked up a little flock and was ordained to its charge in 1871. He had for several years been the pastor

of Union Baptist Church, and had been pastor of several other churches in Lee and St. Francis counties. He was elected president of the State Convention in 1872. The people of his county (Lee) elected him as their representative to the Legislature in 1878.

## CHAPTER X.

### THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION, SPEECHES AND RESOLUTIONS.

**N**OTICE—We did promise that a synopsis of all the addresses delivered at our Anniversary celebration would be printed in this pamphlet, but on going to press we found that the manuscript was longer than the money with which we had to do the work and we were obliged to leave them out.

August 12th, 1889, the Secretary was authorized to issue circulars calling a mass-meeting of all the brethren to commune with the Centennial Baptist church on Friday before the third Sunday in November, 1889. And in October the place of meeting was changed.

#### INVITATION.

To all the churches and Sabbath Schools in our District, and all the brethren, are cordially invited to assemble in a general mass meeting at Pilgrim Baptist church, Rev. B. Brown, pastor, at 11 a. m., Saturday and Sunday, November 9th and 10th, and then take part in the Grand Celebration of the Tenth Anniversary of the Phillips, Lee and Monroe County District Association.

The above call was issued by the Executive Board at its regular quarterly meeting at Jerusalem Baptist church, Old Town Ridge, on Saturday October 12, 1889.

And, in pursuance, on November 9th, 1889, by 10 o'clock a. m.,



the people began to gather. The weather was somewhat cloudy and cool, but the sun, the luminary of our natural day, showed itself at intervals in bright array, through the broken clouds, typifying the good will and approval of the Son of Righteousness on the coming together of the brothers to count the cost of ten years work.

At 12 o'clock M., the District Secretary called the meeting to order, read the call and further stated the object of the meeting.

Rev. Louis Robinson of Antioch church was elected president, and Rev. S. L. Cannon, secretary.

#### DIVINE SERVICE.

The President read the fifth chapter of Matthew from the first to 19th verse, and sang hymn No. 5 on page seven as follows :

Before Jehovah's awful throne,  
Ye nations bow with sacred joy;  
Know that the Lord is God alone,  
He can create and he can destroy.

His sovereign power without our aid,  
Made us of clay and formed us men,  
And when, like wandering sheep we strayed,  
He brought us to his fold again.

We are his people, we his care,  
Our souls, and all our mortal frame;  
What lasting honors shall we rear,  
Almighty maker to thy name,

We'll crowd thy gates with thankful songs,  
High as the heavens our voices raise;  
And earth, with her ten thousand tongues,  
Shall fill thy courts with sounding praise.

Prayer by Rev. Israel Burrel, the aged and venerable servant of the Lord, forty-two years in the Ministry, and in the eighty-seventh year of his life.

A programme prepared by the district secretary for the order of the meeting, was adopted.

Rev. B. Brown, the pastor, on behalf of the church delivered the welcome address, and Rev. E. C. Morris, who was chosen to respond on behalf of the meeting, said: "Among other things, brethren, while I gaze at your faces, my mind runs back to our organization ten years ago, we were then under the clouds, but we are now thank God in the light, and when I think of the hardship all along the road, both within and without, I esteem this gathering the happiest meeting of my life.

The following committee on resolutions was appointed.

Revs. J. H. Harris, E. C. Morris, S. L. Cannon, W. A. Holmes, B. Brown.

Letters from Rev. T. L. Ashe, C. F. Fencer, D. D. Keiggler Wm. Blakely, and many other brothers who could not be present was read, expressive of the good judgment of the Executive Board in calling the meeting, and of their many wishes for its ultimate success.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, We the representatives of Baptist churches assembled with Pilgrim Baptist church, Lee County, Ark., for the purpose of celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of the Phillips, Lee and Monroe County District Association, and after listening to some very encouraging reminiscences of the past by Rev's Israel Burrell, Henry Pruett, Louis Robinson, B. Brown, John Harris, DeWit Graham, E. C. Morris and others, we think it fitting that we should offer to the church the following resolutions, to-wit:

*Resolved*, That we owe to God our sincere thanks for the wonderful progress which we have made during the past ten years, believing that it was a special Providence of His which has guided us and cemented the Baptists of this State into a union which has accomplished so much for His cause.

*Resolved*, That we believe that the organization of the Phillips, Lee and Monroe County Association was a necessity, and that through it much has been accomplished for the cause of Christ in this District and in the State.

*Resolved*, That we regard the building of the Arkansas Baptist College of paramount importance to all other interests of the Baptists in the State, and that we renew our pledge to its support.

*Resolved*, That the *Baptist Vanguard* has been a great educator of our people throughout the State, and has done as much as any other agent in creating a proper missionary spirit among the people.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the people are due the officers and leading brethren in our Association for the faithful and zealous way in which they have prosecuted the work committed to their hands during many years of arduous labor.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this meeting are due and are hereby extended to the pastor and members of Pilgrim church for the very cordial manner that they entertained this meeting.

The following resolutions by Rev. W. A. Holmes were on motion, adopted and ordered sent to the Executive Board, with a request that if advisable the same be put in operation :

FIRST—The creation of a permanent fund in our district association, out of the extra dollar money and the annual membership fees, this to be known as the church extension fund, and to be used by the board as gifts and loans to encourage the building of better churches in our district, and to advise in securing proper deeds to their lands.

SECOND—The organization of a Woman's Missionary Association in each county, auxillary to our regular District Association, and the moneys raised by these three local bodies to be used by the District Board as follows :

- 1—One-fourth for the Arkansas Baptist College.
- 2—One-fourth to be used for District Mission work.
- 3—One-fourth for Foreign Mission work.
- 4—One-fourth for general purpose—printing, &c.

THIRD—That the association purchase two record books, have a seal press, printed letter heads and orders on the treasurer, all bearing the name of our Association.

Sunday the tenth inst., was a bright clear day, and at 11 o'clock a. m., between four and five hundred people had gathered in and around the church.

At 11:30 a. m., the president called the meeting to order and introduced Rev. S. L. Cannon, who conducted devotional service by reading the second chapter of second Timothy and sang hymn No. 354 on page 286. Prayer by Deacon Dewitt Graham.

Rev. J. H. Harris read the original constitutions of the association, as adopted on November 10 1879, and made some comment which was highly interesting.

Rev. H. C. Pettis, the District Moderator, preached an instructive sermon, and one which we think made a lasting impression on the people from the 5th chapter and 17th verse of the Gospel of John.

“My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.”

A collection of \$13.10 was taken up, and on motion of Rev. B. Brown, the sum of \$25.00 including the collection, to be used to aid Mount Perian Baptist church at LaGrange.

The people did not forget to show their appreciation for the many years service of Rev. I. Burrell, for without his solicitation an Anniversary collection of \$4.25 was taken up and presented to him.

On motion 1,000 copies of the financial report of the Association, together with the proceedings of the meeting were ordered printed for distribution among the churches.

While the financial report was being read it was discovered that Lee County had raised more money for the work than Phillips County, and the brothers from Lee gave forth loud applause. We from Phillips will ask you to take back next year.

MR. PRESIDENT:—I was not with you when our Association was organized in this house of God this day ten years ago, and all I can say of the first three years of its infancy is what I have learned from your minutes and many oral statements made to me from time to time by the brethren.

We listened with much pleasure to the addresses delivered on yesterday, by the brethren. Rev. H. Pruitt spoke of the time when insurgents, to defeat the right of the churches, went through the country in wagons with drums and fifes to draw the people's attention from the organization of this body.

Rev. B. Brown told of the plot by someone to have the Sheriff to close the church doors in order to check its headway.

Deacon Dewitt Graham, said that during the early days, he was with the other faction and that in order to keep the people away from Pilgrim church he told them that that seven headed monster, the sin-con-tin-u-in-sin church of Helena, (Centennial) organized with only eleven members from the mother church (Second Baptist) was the cause of all this trouble, and that all that was necessary to do was to get rid of that old man Charles Williams, for he is leader, and that baby preacher Morris, and the thing would be all right.

Rev. E. C. Morris spoke of the organization and the first four years work of our Association, he likened it unto a goodly baby horn in due time.

Time and space would fail me to speak of what others said also.

It seems however that the early brethren's only object in the organization of this body, was not so much to enlighten and christianize their people, at that time, as it was to get from under the political spirit which then held the churches and people bound to serve and obey those would-be leader, who styled themselves the high priests of the day.

The principle of religious freedom is what drove them to this place ten years ago, then with only seventeen churches. But now, thank God we are seventy-two strong. But sir, let us forget the past, and go on laboring for the moral spiritual and intellectual training of our people, for whatever may have been the troubles of those times, our God has brought peace out of confusion, and let us all remember that the only expounder of life's great mysteries is Jesus of Nazareth—the God man—and that aside from him, life in all ages past or to come, (whether in peace or contentions, in pleasure or pain,) is but a hopeless and unsatisfying experiment, in him all dispensations meet, whether it be that of “the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head or that when he shall reign as king” from the rivers unto the ends of the earth, for in him all fullness dwells.

The great work before us is to lift up the son of God, an ensign of salvation, the only true light in the road to happiness, for the onward march of our people as they come up from the darkness of more than 200 years of slavery, to the light of the age in which we live.

The church then must be made a school house for the spiritual and moral training of our people, and her light of truth and virtue, together with her principle of liberty, and benevovence, must shine every way, that those intrusted to our hands may not err. It is the only sure foundation for our sons and daughters whose minds must be educated and their hands must be trained



to grasp the many problems of life, and for the accomplishment of this great work among other things.

We see the great need of a more enlightened ministry for the successful working of the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ, and for the enlightenment of our people. And believing as we do that intelligence, virtue and refinement are each and all within themselves pleasing in the sight of our God, and that the times in which we live for the furtherance of the principle of our denomination, demands of us as elders, preachers, deacons and Sabbath School teachers, a more thorough knowledge of the scriptures. The rudiment of a common education, the laws of our country, and such other qualities as will fit and prepare us as messengers, to labor in the interest of our blessed Master to raise up our people from the many vices and superstitions to a higher standard of Christian civilization.

W. A. HOLMES.

The following list of eighty-nine Baptist churches belonging to our Association with the amounts of monies received from each one, during seven years (7) years, or from July 1882 to July 1889, with the exception of 1885. It will be seen that the amounts set opposite their names varies, the fact is that many of the churches did not report regularly every year, and because more than two-thirds of them have paid in less than two dollars per year. We had no statistical report in 1885 and therefore the \$198.75 of that year cannot be accurately divided so as to give the amounts sent by each church. Notwithstanding should we add the above amount to the monies reported by this list, it would give us \$1,005.65 and should these churches pay their \$3.00 yearly, it would give us \$267 per year, or we would have collected for the seven years \$1,867, whereas by this report we

## 120 THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

have only raised \$806.90 and according to the three dollar (\$3.00) resolutions of 1883 the churches are due to the Association the little sum of \$1,060.10. The total amount from church letters, from 1879 to 1889, is \$1,127.35. We take from this the amount of this seven years' report and find that from church letters and annual membership fees there was collected in the years 1879, 1880, 1881 and 1885, \$320.45.

The moneys collected from envelopes and the extra dollar money is not included in this report.

## PHILLIPS COUNTY.

Antioch.....	\$ 3 50
Bethlehem, No. 1.....	9 50
Centennial.....	26 00
St. Peter, No. 2.....	3 50
Mt. Zion.....	7 00
St. Paul, No. 2.....	6 25
Star Bethlehem.....	7 00
Black Foot.....	10 00
White Walnut Grove.....	10 75
Jerusalem.....	12 50
Morning Grove.....	4 50
Spring Lake.....	12 20
Mt. Olive.....	4 00
Friendship.....	7 00
Macedonia.....	6 30
Rendrick Grove.....	14 00
St. John.....	9 00
Salem.....	10 50
Sequill, No. 2.....	5 25

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Carried forward.....\$168 75

Brought forward.....	\$168 75
Mt. Nebo.....	3 40
Pleasant Grove.....	3 00
Lee's Chapel.....	9 00
First Baptist.....	11 00
New Mt. Olive.....	14 00
Midway.....	12 25
Morning Crown.....	9 00
First St. Paul.....	15 75
St. Peter, No. 1.....	11 00
Old Mt. Olive.....	11 20
New Hope.....	7 00
Long Lake.....	5 15
New Mt. Zion.....	3 00
Phillips Bayou.....	6 50
New Zion.....	8 00
Asberry.....	10 50
New Hope.....	3 00
Mt. Pleasant.....	4 00
St. Matthew.....	3 00
New Hope.....	6 00
Pleasant Grove.....	3 00
St. Mary.....	4 00
Churches, 41.....	<u>\$331 50</u>

## LEE COUNTY.

Paradise, No. 1.....	\$ 17 00
St. James.....	7 00
Hampshire.....	15 00
New Hope.....	4 50
Carried forward.....	<u>\$ 43 50</u>

Brought forward .....	\$ 43 50
Belmont .....	12 00
Union .....	12 50
New Hope, No. 2 .....	17 00
St. John .....	15 00
Pilgrim .....	16 00
Antioch .....	14 00
Mt. Nebo .....	6 00
Pleasant Hill .....	3 00
Walnut Bend .....	6 00
St. Mark .....	12 00
Rising Sun .....	3 25
Walnut Grove .....	13 50
Mount City .....	13 25
Paradise, No. 2 .....	15 75
Mt. Moriah .....	12 00
St. Sinai .....	15 00
New Hope .....	15 00
Union Liberty .....	14 15
Freedonia .....	9 00
Sequell .....	10 50
Bethlehem .....	14 00
Shiloh .....	7 10
Sequell .....	9 00
Pilgrim Rest .....	4 50
Summer's Hill .....	4 50
Mt. Pleasant .....	5 50
Mt. Sinai .....	6 00
Mt. Olive .....	6 80

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Carried forward ..... \$335 80

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Brought forward .....	\$335 80
Mt. Zion, No. 3 .....	12 00
St. Luke .....	4 50
Mt. Perron .....	12 40
2d Baptist .....	6 25
Jerusalem .....	6 00
St. Matthew .....	8 20
Mt. Zion, No. 4 .....	8 50
Spring Hill Chapel .....	3 00

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Churches, 40.....\$396 65

## MONROE COUNTY.

Travelers' Rest .....	\$ 11 00
Berry Chapel .....	13 75
St. Luke .....	15 00
Baptist Grove .....	5 50
Rising Star .....	8 00
Philadelphia .....	10 00
Bethlehem .....	9 00
St. John .....	16 50

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Churches, 8.....\$ 88 75

## MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

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The following letter heads, and the first ever used in our District, was printed in March, 1890:

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.....  
—OFFICE OF—  
.....

*The Secretary*

—OF THE—

PHILLIPS, LEE AND MONROE COUNTY BAPTIST  
DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.



*Helena, Ark.,* ..... 18.....

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The annual revenue of our Association is derived from three  
(3) general sources:

1. Church letters.
2. Public collections.
3. Annual membership.

The Department of education is supported from the seventy-



five cents from each three dollars sent by the churches and the envelope collections from individual members. The Department of Church Extension is kept up exclusively from the extra dollar money from our churches and the income from loans to churches. The Department of African Missions is supported by the twenty-five cents or one-twelfth of the annual fees from the churches and from an appropriation of the public collections at each Associational meeting. The moneys we give for the State Conventions, District Minutes, District Missionary, District Secretary, and other incidental expenses, is appropriated annually from the remaining two dollars, the membership fee and the remainder of the public collections.

Monroe county has the largest church membership; Lee county the smallest membership; Phillips county has the largest and finest church edifice.

The first programme ever printed for the annual meeting of the Association was in June, 1889. The churches were asked to send an extra dollar, in June, 1889, and as a commencement they gave \$11.50.

# IN MEMORIAM.

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"Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord."

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To the memory of the following named brothers, Ministers, who after their life's work, by the will of GOD, have fallen asleep, and their bodies are now resting beneath the sod where once they walked on its highest top; and their souls only waiting till the angels open wide the mystic gate at whose feet they long have lingered, weary, poor and desolate, though not without hope:

**Gabriel Richardson,**

**James Jones,**

**Ed. Sames,**

**George Berry,**

**E. D. Word,**

**David Stephens,**

**Joseph Jackson,**

**James Lusberry,**

**Depill Thomas,**

**Reuben Smicht,**

**James Priear,**

**A. B. Smitch,**

**George Wilkes,**

**P. Bans Brown,**

**James Kelley,**

**J. A. Jackson,**

**P. T. Price.**

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The number of Lay-members who have died during these ten years is 558.

Blessed and holy is he that hath part in this first resurrection.

## Introduction.

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We desire the worthy name of Brother KINCHON ADKINS, of Asberry church, of Marvell, and Sister VIRGINIA STEWART, a widow, of St. Mark Baptist church, on the Spring Creek road, to be favorably known among all Baptists, and especially among the traveling brothers, whose friends they are.

We know them by their  
Good works for GOD, the fruits  
Of which shall follow them  
To the Church Triumphant.

THE END.









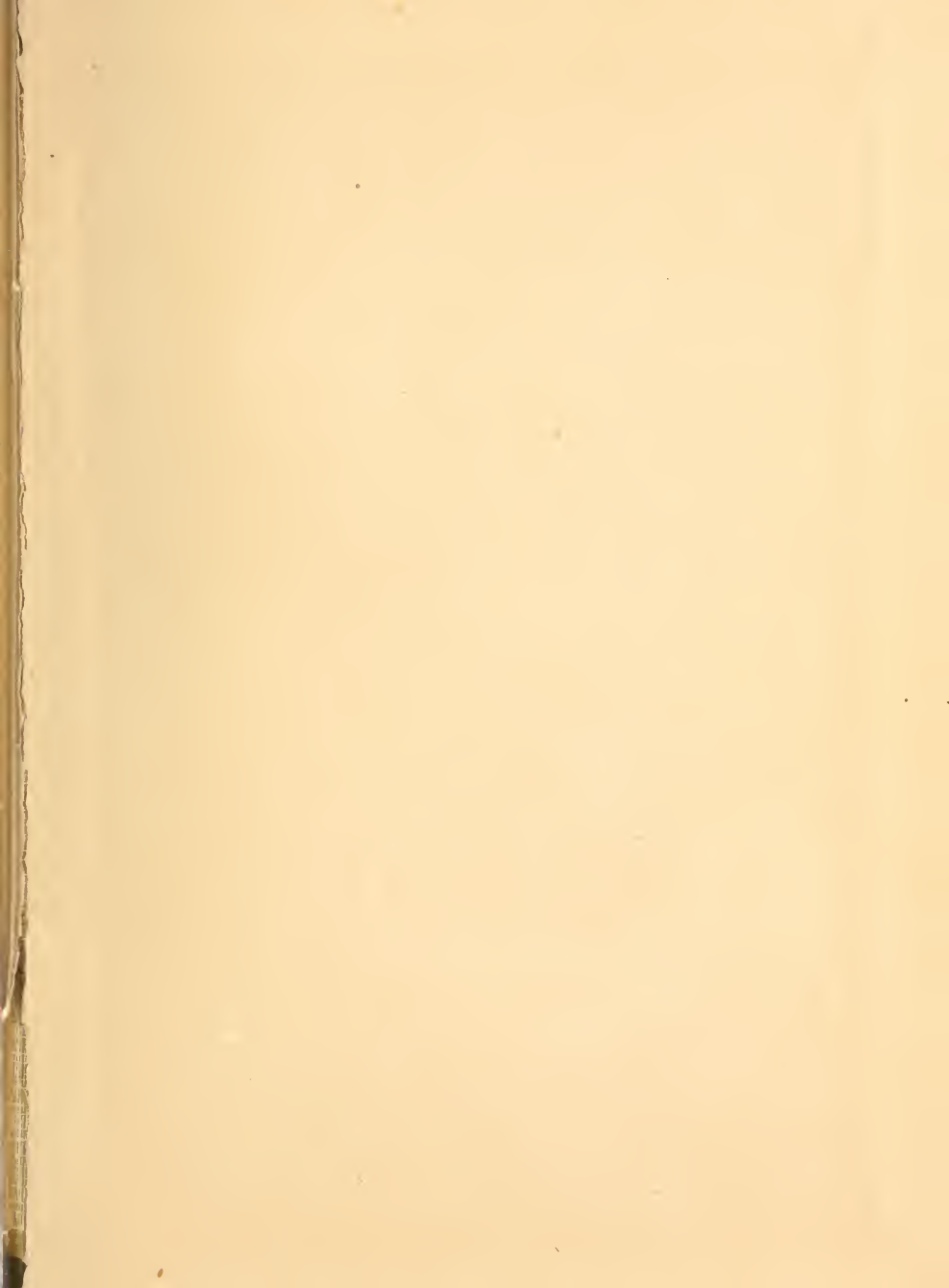


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